

# ALCIDA GREENES Metamorphosis,

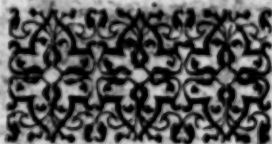
VVherein is discovered, a pleasant  
transformation of bodies into sundrie shapes,  
*shewing that as Vertues beautifie the mind, so Vani-  
ties giue greater staines, than the perfection  
of any quality can rase out.*

*The Discourse confirmed with diuerse  
merry and delightfull Histories; full of graue  
Principles to content Age, and sawsed with pleasant  
parlees, and witty answeres, to satisfie youth;  
profitable for both, and not of-  
fensiuē to any.*

By R. G.

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*Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci.*



LONDON,  
Printed by George Parslows. 1617.

ALCIDA  
GERE  
Mecanophoria

Venerabilis pater  
et cetera

et cetera



et cetera

et cetera

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# To the Gentlemen Readers, HEALTH.



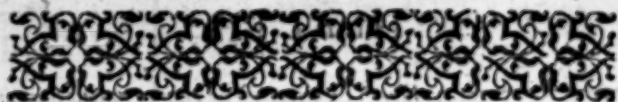
*Elling* (Gentlemen) by chance amongst a company of no meane Gentlewomen: after supposes and such ordinary sports past, they fell to prattle of the qualities incident to their owne Sexe: one amongst the rest, very indifferēt, more addicted to tell the truth, then to selfe conceit, said, That women that had fauours, had most commonly contrary faults: for (quoth shee) beauty is seldome without pride, and wit without inconstancie. The Gentlewomen began to blash, because shee spake so broad, be sure, and blamed her that shee would so fondly soyle her owne nest. Shee still maintained it, that what she had spoken was true: and more, that she had forgotten their little secrecie. Whereupon there grew arguments: and a Sophisticall disputation fell out among the Gentlewomen, about their owne qualities. I sate still as a cypher in *Algorisme*, and noted what was spoken: which after I had perused in my chamber, and seeing it would be profitable for yong Gentlemen, to know and foresee as well their faults as their fauours, I drew into a fiction the forme and method, in manner of a *Metamorphosis*: which (Gentlemen) I present vnto your wonted curtesies, desiring you not to looke for any of *Ouids* wittie inuentions, but for bare and rude discourses: hoping to finde you, as hitherto I haue done, whatsoeuer in opinion, yet fauourable and silent in speech. In which hope sitting downe my rest, I bid you farewell.

Yours euer, as he is bound,  
ROBERT GREENE.

*Authoris ad librum suum carmen Ouidianum,  
cum diutina febris rure laboraret.*

*Parue (nec inuideo) sine me liber ibis in urbem:  
Hei mihi, quod domino non licet ire tuo.*

Et



*Et palma tu dignus, & hic, & quisquis in altam,  
Pluribus ut profis, doctus descendit arenam.*

R. A. Oxon.

*In praise of the Author.*

**T**He busie Bee, that riseth with the Sunne;  
Hies forth her hiue, to end her daily taske :  
With weary wings she plies into the fields,  
And Natures secrets searcheth by her skill,  
From flower to flower her carefull way doth flie :  
To sucke her hony from her native sweet;  
Loden, she rich bestirres her to her home,  
And there she workes and tilles within her hiue :  
Not for her selfe thus busily she romes,  
But for vs men, that feed vpon her combes.  
So GREENE hath sought into the depth of Art;  
With weary labours toying at his bookes  
For fruits, such as the learned Authors yeeld ;  
Searching the secrets that their wits haue pen'd,  
Tossing amongst their learned principles  
Their Rhethoricke and deepe Phylosophy :  
Gathering the sweet that euery Science giues,  
To carry pleasant hony to his hiue.  
Not for himselfe alone the Author lookes,  
But for such men as daigne to read his bookes.

*Sic vos non vobis mellificatis apes.*

Ed. Percy.

To



# TO THE RIGHT

Worshipfull, Sir *Charles Blount*,

*Knight, indewed with perfections of learning, and  
titles of nobility: Robert Greene wisheth in-  
crease of honour and vertue.*



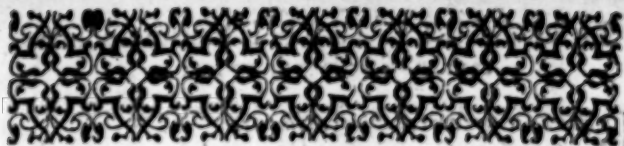
*A*chilles, the great Commander of the *Mirmidones*, had no sooner (Right Worshipfull) encountred the hardie *Troian* with his Courtelax, and registered his valour on the helme of his enemy, but returning to his tents, hee pourtraied with his pen the praise of *Polixena*, ioyning Amors with Armors, and the honor of his Learning with the resolution of his Launce. In the *Olympiades* the Laurell striued as well for the Pen, as the Speare: and *Pallas* had double Sacrifice, as well perfumes of torne papers, as Incense of broken truncheons. Entering (right worshipfull) with deep insight into these premises, I found blazoning your resolute indeuors in deeds of Armes, and report figuring out your euer-intended fauours to good letters: presuming vpon the courteous disposition of your Worship, I aduentured to present you, as *Lucius* did *Cesar*, who offered him an Helmet topt with Plumes in warres, and a booke stuffed with precepts in peace, knowing that *Cesar* held it as honorable to be counted an Orator in the Court, as a Souldier in the field. So (right worshipfull) after your returne from the Low Countries, (passing ouer those praise-worthy resolutions executed vpon the enemy)

*The Epistle Dedicatory.*

seeing absence from armes had transformed *Campus Martius* to mount *Helicon*, I ouerboldeaed my selfe to trouble your Worship, with the sight of my Metamorphosis: A pamphlet too simple to patronage vnder so wortly a *Mæcenus*, and vnworthy to be viewed of you, whose thoughts are intended to more serious studies. Yet *Augustus* would read Poems, and write Roundelays, rather to purge melancholly with toyes, then for any delight in such trifles. So I hope your Worship wil, after long perusing of great volumes, cast a glance at my poore pamphlet: wherein is discovered the Anatomy of womens affections: setting out as in a mirror, how dangerous his hazard is, that sets his rest vpon loue: whose essence (if it hane any) is momentany, and effects variable. If either the method, or matter mislike, as wanting scholarisme in the one, or grauity in the other: yet if it shall serue your Worship as a trifle to passe away the time, and so slip with patience, as a boord lest, I shall be lesse grieved: if any way it please, as to procure you delight, I shall be glad and satisfied, as hauing gained the end of my labours: but howsoeuer, hoping your Worship will pardon my presumption in presenting; and weigh more of the well affected will, then of the bad labored worke, I wish your Worship such fortunate fauours, as you can desire, or I imagine.

*Your Worships to command,*

Robert Greene.



TO THE AVTHOVR HIS  
FRIEND.

**W**ELL hast thou painted in thy learned Prose,  
The perfect portraiture of womens workes:  
How many scapes they shadow with a glose,  
What mortall faults amongst their fauours lurkes.  
How if they haue a vertue to entice,  
A cooling card comes following with a vice:  
Beautie doth grace, and yet is stain'd with pride,  
Faire is abas'd by being ouer-coy:  
It is a gemme, but if inconstant try'd,  
Account it for a trifle and a toy.  
Constant and kinde are vertues that do grace:  
But babbling dames such glories doe deface.  
Vertue thus set oppos'd vnto their vice,  
Giues vs a light to settle safe our loue:  
To feare lest painted shewes may vs entice,  
Subtill are women, then it men behoues  
To read, sweet friend, and ouer-read thy bookes,  
To teach vs 'ware of womens wanton lookes.

*Babb Gent.*

IN ROBERTI GRENI Metamorphosin,  
carmen ENKOMIASTIKON.

**B**ellica pacifica concedat lancea lingua,  
Sed tibi prosa magis, seu tibi metra placent.  
Sape Duces inter luadam meruere Poeta,  
Hostibus in medijs arma virosq; canunt.  
Inter Philosophos laudem meruere Poeta,  
Qui lenibus miscent seria metra iocis.  
Bella Ducem, & claros multi scripsere triumphos,  
Inter quos primas Maro Poeta tenet.  
Sunt qui mutatas studuerunt dicere formas,  
Quales qua quondam Naso Poeta dedit.  
Post Metamorphosin Nasonis, carmine scriptam,  
Mutatas formas carmine nemo dedit.  
Grenus adest tandem, rhetor bonus atque Poeta,  
Qui sua cum prosis carmina iuncta dedit.  
Si cupis ingratas pœnas persolvere amica,  
Hic exempla legas, moribus apta suis.  
Orabis Venerem (solet exaudire precantem)  
Inque novam formam vertet amica Venus.  
Dura est? in saxum: levis est? in Chameleontem:  
Inque rosam vertet, garrula si fuerit.

G. B. Cant.

In laudem Roberti Greni Cantab. in  
Artibus Magistri.

**O**lim præclaros scripsit Chaucerus ad Anglos,  
Aurea metra suis patrio sermone refundens:  
Post hunc Gowerus, post hunc sua carmina Lydgate,  
Postque alios alij sua metra dedere Britannis.  
Multis post annis, coniungens carmina prosis,  
Floruit Ascamus, Chekus, Gascoynus, & alter  
Tullius Anglorum nunc vivens Lillius, illum  
Consequitur Grenus, præclarus uterque Poeta.

ALCI.



# ALCIDA GREENES

Metamorphosis.



Dosing from Tripoly, to make for Alexan-  
dria, as we thought to cross the Seas with  
a speedy cut, our Ship had not long gone un-  
der saile, scarce past two hundred Leagues  
upon the maine; but, whether our unhappy  
fortune, the forwardnesse of the Fates, the  
Constellation of some contrary Aspect, or the particular  
destinie of some unhappy Man had so decreed: when the  
calme was smoothest, the sea without storme, the skie with-  
out clouds; then Neptune, to shew he was God of the seas,  
and Eolus master of the winde, either of them severally,  
and both of them conjointly, so conspired, that they first  
drew a foggie vail over Phoebus face, that the heauens ap-  
peared all glomie, the Trytons daunced, as foreshelwing a  
rough sea; and Eolus setting his winde at libertie, hurled  
such a gale into the Ocean, that every surge was ready to o-  
uertake our ship, and the barke ready to founde with eue-  
ry waue: such and so miserable was our estate, that wee  
roke all our Sailes, weighed our Ankers, and let the  
ship hull at winde and weather, from our handy labours sal-  
ling to heartie prayers. Thus looking every houre to com-

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

mit our Soules to the gods, and our bodies to the seas, after we had floated by the space of five dayes without hope of life, our backs by chance fel vpon the coast of Taprobane, an Iland situated far South, vnder the pole Antarticke, where Canapus the faire starre gladdeth the hearts of the inhabitants: there wee suffered shipwacke, all perishing in the sea, except my insubornate selfe, who count my misfortune greater in suruiving the rest, then if I had beene partner with them of their destinies. Well, the gods would haue me liue to be moze miserable, and despaire I would not, lest I should proue guiltie of mine owne mishap, but taking heart at grasse, wet and weary as I was, I passed by into the Iland, which I found inhabited and fruitfull, the aire passing temperate, the situation pleasant, the soyle abounding with trees, hearbes, and grasse, fowles and beastes of all kind, the Champian fit for cozne and graine, the wood-land full of thickets, the meades full of springs and delightfull fountaines: that the soyle and the aire equally proportioned, the Ile seemed a sacred Eden, or Paradise: much like that faire England, the flower of Europe, stozed with the wealth of all the Westerne world, which as ex opposito is contrarily placed farre North, vnder the pole Arcticke. Well, crept by the clyffes into the maine continent of this Iland, I wandered farre, and found no village, til at last, vnder a hill I spied a little cottage, at the doore whereof sat an old woman decrepit, ouer woyn with yeares, her haire as white as the Downe found vpon the shrubbes of Arabia, her face full of wrinckles, surrowed so with age, as in her visage appeared the very map of antiquitie; yet might I perceiue by the lineaments of her face, that she had bene beautifull and well featured; and that she was descended from some good parentage, such sparkes of Gentilitie appeared in her countenance. Puling at this old Patron, that satte passing melancholy, my teeth for cold beating in my head, I saluted her in this manner.

Mother: for this Title I may vse in respect of your age,  
crauing



### Greenes Metamorphosis.

crawing pardon if I impart not what reuerence belongs to  
your estate, in that I am a stranger, I salute you, wishing  
as many good fortunes may end your dayes, as you haue  
past ill fortunes in the course of your life. My name, oʒ  
Countries, little auailes now to reueale, time being too  
short, and my state too miserable: let it suffice, I am a stran-  
ger that haue suffered shipwacke on your coast, my fellow  
consoʒts drowned, ending their sorowes, I escaped, refer-  
ued to great mis-fortunes. The weather is cold, and I am  
wet, might I craue harbour this night, I should bee bound  
to make such requitall as distresse can affoʒd, which is  
thankes, and pray to the gods that you may die as fortunate  
as the mother of Cleotis and Byron. The old beldam lifting  
bp her head, and seing mee stand shaking foʒ colde, utte-  
red not a woʒd, but taking bp her staffe, and me by the hand,  
confirmed my welcome with silence, and led me into her  
Cottage, where stumbling about on her three legges, shee  
made me a lustie fire, that cheered my halfe dead limbes, and  
reuiued what the Sea had halfe mortified. After she percei-  
ued I began to waie warme, and that my colour grew to be  
fresh, she began to make me answer in this manner.

Since now that the fire hath made thee frolicke, and the  
warmth of my poʒe Cottage hath bene as good as household  
fʒhycke to cure thy weather-beaten loynes, let mee say as  
thou shalt finde, that thou art welcome: foʒ I hold it a reli-  
gion to honoʒ strangers, especially distrest, sith comfort in  
miseric is a double gift. I know not thy degrée, noʒ I recke  
not: suffice I vse thee as thou seemest, and entertaine thee  
as my abilitie can: thy estate may bee great, foʒ the Hood  
makes not the Ponke, noʒ the apparrell the man. Mercurie  
walked in the shape of a Country Swaine, Apollo kept Mi-  
daes sheep, and pooze Philemon & Bawcis his wife, enter-  
tained Iupiter himselfe, sʒpt him & lodged him, they honoʒed  
an vnknowne ghest: he not vngratefull to so kinde an Host,  
foʒ hee turned their Cottage to a Temple, and made them  
Sacrificers at his Altars. Thus I may be deceiued in thy

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

degre, but whosoever, or whosoever, this cottage, & what is in it, is mine and thine, lesse thou shalt not find, and moze in conscience thou canst not craue. Sonne, I speake thus frankly, for that I am olde, for age hath that priuiledge, to be priuate & familiar with strangers, for were I as I haue been, as beautifull as now I am withered: as young as I am olde, I would bee lesse prodigall and moze churlish, lest with Phillis I might intertaine Demophon, which did make account of the trothlesse Troian, or with Ariadne tye my selfe to the propozition of Theseus. But age hath put water in the flame, & many yeeres turned the glowing sparkes to cold winde. Time (sonne) is like the worzme Tenedes, which smoothly lying on the barke of the tree, yet eateth out the sappe. It stealeth on by minutes, and fareth like the Sunne, whose shadow hasteth on, yet cannot be perceiued, but letting this parle passe, seeing thou art weary and hungry, two fruits that grow from this wacke, rest thee till I prouide Supper, which how homely soeuer it be, yet must thou account it dainty, for that it is my delicates, and accept it as a prodigall banquet, for that euery dish shall bee sauced with welcome.

With this shee rose from her stole and went to prouide supper, leauing me amazed at her gracious reply, making me to coniecture by her words, that as she was wise, so shee had bene well brought up, and was descended of no small Parentage: I sate in a muse till shee had made ready our eates: which being set on the table, we fell to make tryall of our teeth, as befoze we had done of our tongues, that we began and ended supper without any great chat. Well, our repast taken, the old woman seeing me fitter for sleepe than for prattle, gaue me leaue to goe to bedde, where I past away the night in golden slumbers, lying so long in the morning till Phœbus glimmering on my face, bade me good day.

Awake by the summons of the Sunne, I arose, and found mine old Wastelle sitting at her doze in her old melancholly mood, sighing and sorrowfull: an interchange of salues passed

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

fed betweene her and me, I with thanks for my great and courteous intertainment, and shee with oft repetitions of welcomes, taking a stole and sitting down by his old dame, seeing shee fell againe to her dumps, I began to bee thus inquisitive.

Wother, if I may without offence presume to use a question, I would inquire what I muse at, and be absolved in a darke Enigma that I haue found in your cottage: but rather had I still hold my thoughts in suspense, than be offensive either to your age, or to so courteous an Wastesse. The old woman smiling at my feare, or at my folly, bade me say on: and I boldly prosecuted my purpose thus.

Since my arrivall in your Cottage, I haue noted your thoughts to be passionate, and your passions to be violent: I haue scene care lurking midst the wrinkles of your age, and sorrow breath'd out with broken sighes. I do not deny but age is giuen to melancholy, and many yeeres acquainted with many dumps: but such farre fetcht groanes, the he-calls of griefes, such deepe sighes the Ambassadors of sorrow, make me thinke either you grieve at your sinnes with repentance, or else recount some great sojepassed misfortunes: this is the doubt, and here lies the question.

I had no sooner vttered these words, but the old woman leaning her head against her staffe, fell into such bitter teares, as did discover a multitude of sorrowes and perplexed passions: insomuch as taking pittie of her griefes, I lent her a fewe luke warme drops, to shew how in minde I did participate of her unknowne dolours. After shee had filled the furrows of her face with the streams of her teares, ending the catastrophe of her passions with a boile of sighes, shee blubbered out this reply. Ah son, ill haue those painters deciphered time with a pumice stone, as rasping out both loyes and sorrowes with obliuie: seeing experience tels mee, that deepe conceived sorrowes are like the Sea Iuie, which the older it is, the larger routes it hath: resembling the Eagle, which in her oldest age reneweth her bill.

Passions

Greene's Metamorphosis.

Passions (my sonne) are like the arrowes of Cupid, which if they touch lightly proue but toys, but piercing the skin, proue deep wounds, as hardly to be rased out as the spots of the Leopard: I was, sonne (and with that she entred her narration with a deepe sigh) once young and burly as thou art, beauty discovering her pride, where now a talow hiew pulleth downe my plumes: the lineaments of my face were leueld with such equall proportion, as I was counted full of saour: and of so faire a Dye had Nature stained my cheekes, that I was thought beautifull: yea (son) giue me leaue a little to saour of selfe loue, I tell thee I was called the Venus of Taprobane: my parentage did no whit disgrace what nature had imparted vpon mee, for I was the daughter of an Earle. To be brieue (my sonne) as well the qualities of my mind, as my exterior saours were so honoied in Taprobane, that the Prince of the Island called Cleomachus took me to wife, and had by me foure children, one son and three daughters: and with this she fell asresh to her teares, pouring forth many passionate plaints, til at last the sorrow of her teares stopping, she went forward in her tale: My Husband in the prime of yeeres dyed, my sonne succeeded in the gouernment, and I and my daughters courted it, as their youth and my direction would permit. Living thus contentedly, and as I thought armed against fortune, in that we so regarded all our actions with vertue, the fates, if there be any, or the destinies, some star or planet, in some infortunate and cursed aspect, calculated such ill hap to all my daughters natiuities, as they proued as miserable, as I would haue wished them happy. And here multiplying sigh vpon sigh with double and trebble reuies, she ceased: but I desirous to know the sequell of their misfortunes, asked her the cause and manner of their mishaps: she replied not, but taking mee by the hand, she led mee from her cottage, to a halley hard by, where she brought me to a marble pillar, fashioned and portraied like a woman, which made me remember Pigmaliions picture, that he carried with his hand  
and

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

and doted on with his heart. So soner were wee come to the stone, but Alcida (so so was the old ladies name) taking it in her armes, killed it, and walsh't it with her teares. I amased at this strange greeting of Alcida and the stone, die to moze nigh, and there I might perceine the Image to hold in either hand a table. In the right hand was depainted the portraiture of Venus, holding the ball that brought Troy to ruine, and vnder were wrytten these verses.

When Nature forged the faire vnhappy mould,  
Wherein proud beauty tooke her matchlesse shape :  
She ouer-slipt her cunning and her skill,  
And aym'd to faire, but drew beyond the marke;  
For thinking to haue made a heauenly blisse,  
For wanton gods to dally with in heauen,  
And to haue fram'd a precious iem for men,  
To solace all their dumpish thoughts with glee,  
Shee wrought a plague, a poyson, and a hell :  
For gods, for men, thus no way wrought she well.  
Venus was faire, faire was the queene of loue,  
Fairer then Pallas, or the wife of loue ;  
Yet did the Gigglets beauty greuee the Smith,  
For that she braud't the Creeple with a horne.  
Mars said, her beauty was the starre of heauen,  
Yet did her beauty staine him with disgrace :  
Paris for faire, gaue her the golden ball ;  
And bought his, and his fathers ruine so :  
Thus nature making what should farre excell,  
Lent gods, and men, a poison and a hell.

In her left hand, was curiously pourtraied a Peacocks,  
clad gloriously in the beauty of his feathers; vnder was  
wrytten as folloiweth :

The bird of Iuno glories in his plumes,  
Pride makes the Fowle to prune his feathers so,

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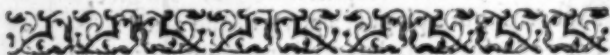
His



## Greenes Metamorphosis.

His spotted traine, fetcht from old Argus head,  
 With golden rayes, like to the brightest sunne :  
 Insetteih selfe-loue in a silly bird,  
 Till midst his boe an glorious fumes,  
 He spies his feete, and then lets fall his plumes.  
 Beauty breeds pride, pride hatcheth forth disdain,  
 Disdain gets hate, and hate calls for reuenge,  
 Reuenge with bitter prayers vrgeth skill :  
 Thus selfe-loue nursing vp the pompe of pride,  
 Makes beautie wracke against an ebbing tide.

After I had viewed the pictures, and read the poesies,  
 I grew to be moze desirous to know what this image ment,  
 intreating Alcida to discourse vnto me what this portrai-  
 ture did meane : shee sitting downe at the foot of the stone,  
 began to tell her tale in this manner.



### ALCIDA, her first Historie.

**W**hile I liued in the Court, honoured of all, as  
 mother to the Prince and louers of euery one,  
 as one that laide the methode of my sommes hap-  
 py and vertuous government, boeing princely wedded to  
 the higher, and affable to the lower, a Mother to them that  
 were in want, and a Nurse to the distressed; I counted my  
 glorie the moze, and my fortune the greater; in that I was  
 guarded with my three daughters, Virgins adorneed so with  
 excellent qualities both of mind and body, I as a mother well  
 exteriour fauours, as interioir vertues; that fame made  
 reposit of their honours, not only thorough all Taprobane; but  
 thorough all the Ilands adiacent, especially of my eldest  
 daughter, called (for her beauty in her cradle) Fiordespine :  
 Nature had so intricht her with supernaturall beauty, that  
 shee



## Greene's Metamorphosis.

Shee seemed an immortall creature, shrowded in a mortall  
 carcase, insomuch that if her times had been equall with  
 Troy, Paris had left Greece, and come to Taprobane for her  
 loue. Living thus loued and admired of all: selfe-loue the  
 moth that creepeth into young mindes, so tickled her with  
 the conceit of her owne beauty, that shee counted no time  
 well spent which shee bestowed not in setting out that more  
 glorious by Art, which Nature had made so absolute and  
 excellent: no drugges from Arabia, that might cleere the  
 skinne, were vsought for: no herbes nor secrets that any  
 Philosopher in Physicks had found out, which might in-  
 crease beautie, but she made experience of: following Ve-  
 nus euery way in such vanities, and playing the right wo-  
 man: for, to confesse the truth, their serueth more for  
 the tricking of their faces, than the tearing of their soules,  
 spending an houre rather in righting the tresses of their  
 haire, than a moment in bending their thoughts to deuoti-  
 on. The souleest must be faire, if not in deed, yet in conceit:  
 and she that is faire must venter her soule to keepe her beau-  
 ty inuiolate: but leauing off this digression, my daughter  
 Fiordeaspine being thus selfe conceited, was more curious  
 than wise, and could sooner afford a pound of pride, then an  
 ounce of humility: for diuers Noble men resorted from all  
 the bordering Ilands to be suitors vnto her, but her beauty  
 made her so coy, that happy was hee that might haue a  
 glance of her perfection. So that many came ioyful in hope  
 to haue fauor, but departed sorrowfull, answered with dis-  
 daine. For as none pulleth by the barran root, but he is stit-  
 tled with the saueur: as none looketh into the pole of Baby-  
 lon, but he hazardeth his health: as none gaseth against the  
 Cockatrice, but either hee loseth his sight, or his life: so  
 none toke view of the beauty of Fiordeaspine, but they re-  
 turned either frantike in affection, fond with fancy, or pain-  
 ed with a thousand perplexed passions. Yet the taking de-  
 light in their griefes, resembled the Crysolite, which the  
 more it is beaten with hammers, the harder it is, and as the

## Greenes Metamorphosis.

Palme tree can by no meanes be depresseſſed, nor the Parga-  
 rites of Europe wrought into no other forme, than Nature  
 hath fram'd them: ſo no praiers, promiſes, paſſions, ſighes,  
 ſorrowes, plaints, teares nor treaties could preuaile, to  
 make her ſhewe ſome ſauour to any of her ſutoꝝ. In ſo  
 much that the poꝛe Noble men finding themſelues ſettered,  
 without hope of freedom, ſeing their liberties reſtrained  
 within an endleſſe labyrinth, and no courteous Ariadne to  
 giue them a clew of thꝛeed to draw them out of their miſe-  
 ries, cried out againſt Ioue, againſt Venus, againſt women,  
 as mercileſſe monſters, hatched to torture the mindes of  
 men: and at laſt ſpying their owne follies, ſhaking off the  
 Shackles of Ioue with diſdaine, went home, and at their de-  
 parture pronounced with Demosthenes, that they would not  
*Pœnitentiam tanti emere.* Cupid ſeing how his ſchollers ſhor-  
 ked from his ſchoule, thought hee would retaine ſome one,  
 with whom to dally; and therefore pulling forth a ſierce in-  
 flamed arrow, hee ſtrooke the ſonne of a Noble man here in  
 Taprobane to the quicke, that he of all the reſt remaine'd faſt  
 ſnared in her beauty: his name was Telegonus, a Youth  
 enery way equall to Fiordeſpine, except in parentage, and  
 yet he was no meaner man than the ſon of an Earle. This  
 Telegonus (omitting his proportion and qualities, ſo; that  
 it ſhall ſuffice to ſay they were excellent) hauing had a ſight  
 of Fiordeſpine, ſtood as the Deere at the gaze, ſwallowing vp  
 greedily the inuenomed hooke that Venus ſo ſubtilly had bai-  
 ted ſo; him: ſo; after the Idea of her perſon and perfection  
 had made a deepe impreſſion in his minde, and that hee had  
 paſſed thꝛee or foure daies in ruminating her excellency, and  
 debated in his bed with many lewtene ſlumber how ſweete  
 a ſaint ſhe was, he fell from liking to ſo deepe Ioue, that no-  
 thing but death did caſe it out.

And thus he marched vnder the ſtandard of fancy, being  
 but a freſh water ſouldier to abide the alarms of affection,  
 feeling a reſtleſſe paſſion that fretted his minde, as the ca-  
 terpillar the fruit, he could not tell on which care to ſleep,  
but

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

but builded Castles in the ayre, and cast beyond the mone: first, hee began to consider with himselfe, how many braue Noble men of sundry Ilands, rich in possessions, honourable in parentage, in qualities rare, in property excellent, had sought her loue, and yet missed. When hee had made comparison betweene himselfe and them, despaire began with darke perswasions to dissuade him from attempting such high loues, knowing, that *Aquila non capit muscas*: Ladies of great beauty looke not at meane personages: that Venus frowned on the smith with a rinkle on her forehead, when she smiled on Mars with a dimple on her chin.

These premises considered, poore Telegonus sad, nipped on the pate with these new thoughts, resembling the melancholy disposition of Troilus, for the inconstancy of Cressida, yet after hee had mused awhile, and past ouer a fewe dreaming dumpes; Hope clad in purple suted robes, tolde him that Cupid had but one string to his bowe, one head to one arrow; that Venus greatest number was an unity, how the heart could harbour but one fancy, and one woman be wedded but to one man. Therefore though they miss, as either infortunate, or crossed by some contrary influence, sith loues fee-simple was registred in the court of their destinies, there was no cause of his despaire, but that hee might bee the man that should enioy Fiordeaspine, and set by the trophie of loue, mangre all the sinister determinations of Cupid. Floting thus betwene despaire and hope, he passed ouer three or foure dayes melancholy and passionate, taking his only content in being solitary: so that at last finding himselfe all alone, feeling the fire too great to smother in secrecy, he burst forth into these flames.

Oh Telegonus, miserable in thy life, and infortunate in thy loues: is thy poynt blasted with fancy, or the prime of thy yeeres daunted with affection: canst thou no longer see Paphos, but thou must prouide sacrifice for Venus? Canst thou not heare the Syrens sing, but thou must bend thy course to their musike: may not beauty kindle a fire, but thou

Greene's Memorable.

must straight step to the same: wilt thou dally with the flye  
in the candle, sport with the Salamander in the heate of Ec-  
na, and with Troilus hazard at that which will breed thy  
harme? knowest thou not loue is a frantike frenzie that so  
inforceth the minds of men, that vnder the taste of nurture,  
they are poisoned with the water of Scix: so; as hee which  
was charmed by Laon, sought still to heare her inchaunt-  
ment: or as the Deere after he once houseth on the Tama-  
risk, he wil not be dyinen away untill he dyeth: so Lovers  
haue their sencelesse senses so besotted with the power of  
this lasciuious god, they count not themselues happy, but  
in their supposed unhappinesse: being at most ease in dis-  
quiet; at greatest rest, when they are most troubled: seek-  
ing contentation in care, delight in misery, and hunting  
greedily after that which alwaies breedeth endlesse harme.  
Yea but Telegonus, beauty is therefore to be obeyed, be-  
cause it is beauty: and loue to be feared of men, because it  
is honoured of the gods. Dare reason abide the hunt,  
when beauty bids the battell: can wisdom win the field,  
where loue is captaine? No, no, loue is without lawe, and  
therefore aboue all lawe: honoured in heauen, feared in  
earth, and a very terror to the infernall ghosts: Wotst thou then  
unto that Telegonus, whereunto lawlesse necessity doth  
bend: be not so fond, as with Zeuxes to bind the Ocean in  
fettlers: fight not with the Rascians against the wind: bark  
not with the Wolues against the Poone: seeke not with  
them of Seyros to shoot against the Starres: strine not with  
Thesides against Venus: for loue bring on letind lookes, to  
command by power, and to be obeyed by force: truth Tele-  
gonus, for Iuno strone but once with Venus, and hee was  
vanquished: Iupiter resisted Cupid, but hee went by the  
worst. It is hard for thee with the Crabbe to strine against  
the Stream, or to wrastle with a fresh wound, lest thou make  
the sore more dangerous. Well Telegonus, what of all this  
prate: thou dost loue: thou honorest beauty as supernatural:  
thou sayst, Venus amongst al the goddesses is most mighty:  
that

Greene's Metamorphosis.

that there is no Island like Paphos, no bird like the doves, no god like Cupid: what of this? but tohy dost thou loue no manner woman then Fior despine, the daughter of the Prince, the fairest in Taprobane? Ah Telegonus, derogate not from her beauty, the fairest in the world: unhappie man in recounting her beauty, in reckoning her perfections, thou dost imblaze thine owne misfortunes: for the more shee is excellent, the lesse will be her loue, and the greater her disdain. Can the Eagle and the blind Olyphage build in one tree: will the Falcon & the Dove coiret to sit on one perch: will the Ape and the Beare be tyed in one tadder: will the Fox and the Lambe be in one den; or Fior despine, who thinneeth her selfe fairer then Venus, stoop to the lare of one so base as I? No, for the more beauty, the more pride, and the more pride, the more precisenesse. None must play on Ormenes harpe, but Orpheus: none rule Lucifer but Phcebus: none weare Venus in a tablet but Alexander, nor none enioy Fior despine, but such a one as farre exceedeth the in person and personage. Thus Telegonus, enter not into these doubts: Sapho a Quene loued Phao a Ferri-man; shee beautiful and wise, he poore and seruile: she holding a scepter, hee an Ware; the one to gouerne, the other to labour. Angelica forsooke diuers Kings and toke Medon a mercenary Souldier: Loue Telegonus hath no lark; Cupid shooteth his shafts at randon; Venus as soone looketh at the sun, as at a star. Loue feareth a Prince as soone as a peasant, and fancy hath no respect of persons.

Then Telegonus hope the best: *Andaces fortuna adiuuat*: Loue and fortune fauoreth them that are resolute. The stone Sandastra is not so hard, but being heat in the fire it may be wrought: nor Iuoy so tough, but seasoned with Zaith it may be ingrauent. The gates of Venus temple are but halfe shut: Cupid is a churle and potemptory, yet to be intreated: women are wilfull, but in some meanes they may be won: were she as full of beauty as Venus, or as great in Power as Iuno: Hope then the best and be bold: for colwarde are admit-



## Greenes Metamorphosis.

admitted to put in no plea at the barre of loue. Telegonus hauing, by bittering these passions, disburdened some part of his paines, and yet not in such sort, but his temples were restless, his griefe much, his content none at all, his care in his sleepe incessant, his mind melancholy, so that his only delight was to be in dumps; in so much, that he gadded solitary by and drowne the Groues as a Satyre enamoured of some Country Symph. Cupid seeing his art did well, thought to shew him some sport; so on a day as hee walked, contemplating the beauty of Fioridespine, being soe a thirst with inward sorrow, he went to a fountaine hard by to coole his heate, where he found his heart set on fire with a great flame: so there he espied Fioridespine, and her other two sisters sitting solacing themselves about the spring: which sodaine sight so appalled his senses, as if he had been appointed a new Judge to the three goddesses in the vally of Ida: yet seeing befoze his eyes the mistress of his thoughts, and the saint vnto whom he did owe his deuotion: hee began to take heart at grasse, thinking that by this fit opportunity, Loue and Fortune began to fauour his enterpryse: willing therfoze not to omit so good an occasion, he saluted them in this sort.

Puse not, faire creatures, if I stand in a maze, with the sight of your surpassing beauties makes me doubt, whether I should honour you as earthly ladies, or adoze you as heavenly goddesses: so no doubt Paris neuer saw fairer in Ida. But now noting with deep insight the figure of your diuine faces; I acknowledge your honours to bee sisters to our prince, whom I reuerence, as allyed to my souereigne, and offer my seruice, as a seruant euer deuoted to such faire and excellent saints.

The ladies hearing this strange and vnlooked for salutation, began to smile: but Fioridespine frowning, as halfe angry he should presume into her presence, with a coy countenance returned him this answer.

If sir Telegonus, so so I suppose is your name, your  
eye-



eye-sight be so bad, perhaps with peering too long on your  
bookes, or your selfe so far beside your senses, as to take vs  
for Symphes: I would wish you either to read lesse, or to  
prouide you a good Physicion, else shall you not iudge co-  
lours for me: and yet since I would you should know, wee  
count our penny god siluer, and thinke our faces, if not ex-  
cellent, yet such as may boote compare.

Telegonus taking opportunity by the sozehead, and thin-  
king to strike the pzon at this heat, made reply.

Maiden, hee might be thought either blinde or enuious,  
that would make a doubt of Venus beauty, and he be deemed  
either frantike or foolish, that cannot see and say, as you are  
superior to most, so are you inferior to none. Warden Pa-  
dam, if my censure be particular, I meane of your sweet  
selfe, whose fauours I haue euer loued and admired, though  
vnworthy to set my fancy on such glorious excellency.

Fiordespine hearing her self thus praised, was not great-  
ly displeased, yet past the ouer what was spoken, as though  
her cares had bene stopt with Vliesses: but Eriphila, the se-  
cond, who was as wise as her sister was beautifull, desired  
Telegonus to rest him by them on the grasse, and that they  
would at their departure aske him as a guard to the court:  
Telegonus as glad of this command, as if he had been willed  
by the gods to haue ben chamberlaine to Venus, sate downe  
with a mind full of passions, hauing his eye fixed still on the  
beautie of Fiordespine: which Eriphila espying, thinking  
to be pleasant with Telegonus, she began thus to prattle.

Your late passionate speech Telegonus, to my sister Fiord-  
espine, makes me think that Venus is your chiefe goddesse,  
and that loue is the lord, whose liuery you weare: if it be so,  
neighbour take heede (for fancie is a Shyete) many like,  
that are neuer loued: Apollo may cry long after Daphne  
before she heare him: and Troilus may stand long enough on  
the walls before Cresida waue her gloue for a saluer. I speak  
Telegonus against our selues: take heed, we be coy, and wi-  
ly: we wish our looks can change men, though Venus will  
weare

Greenes Metamorphosis.

weare the target, and Mars the distaffe, Omphalo handle the club, and Hercules the spindle: Alexander must crouch, and Campaspe looke coy: women will rule in loues, howsoeuer men bee lofty in courage. Indeede Adam, quoth Telegonus, him whom no mortall creature can controule, loue can command: no dignity is able to resist Cupids deitie. Achilles was made by his mother Thetis invulnerable, yet wounded by fancie: Hercules not to be conquered of any, yet quickly conquered by affection: Mars able to resist Iupiter, but not to withstand beantie. Loue is not onely kindled in the eye by desire, but ingrauen in the minde by destinie, which neither reason can eschew, nor wisdom euell: the more pittie I confesse Adam, for pooze men, and the greater impietie in the gods, that in giuing loue free libertie, they grant him a lawlesse priuiledge; but since Cupid will bee obeyed, I am contented to bowe: especially, seeing I haue chanced to set my affection on so excellent a creature.

And who might that be, I pray you (quoth Fiordeespine) (taking the matter in badgen, that Telegonus should make report) that is of such great excellencie? dwelleth shee in Taprobane? In Taprobane Adam, replied Telegonus, but with such a peale of sighes, bewraying his loues in silence: that Eriphila smiling, sayd; I see fire cannot bee hidden in the Flare without smoke, nor Puske in the bosome without smell, nor loue in the brest without suspicion: I perceiue, in faith neighbour, by your lippes what lettice you loue: the saint that you account of such excellency, whose perfection hath so snared your senses, is my Sister Fiordeespine. I, quoth Fiordeespine, filling her twoo browes full of shewish wrinkles, I hope the young lord Telegonus knowes what Suters I haue shaken off: and therefore not inferring comparisons, because they bee odious, I may giue him his answer with an ec. There are more Paydes then Paulkin, and more birds for the Faulcon to perch with, then the Eagle: the Lyon is a bloudy

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

bloudy beast, so; that he knoweth his strength: I will not conclude: but lo; Telegonus, if I be the woman you mean, cease from your sute, so; in faith so well I doe loue you, that you cannot moze displease mee, then in seeking to please mee: so; if I knew no other cause to dislike, yet this might suffice, that I cannot loue. At this flat and peremptorie answer, Telegonus sate nipped on the pate, like to them which taste of the fish Mugra, whose operation maketh them so; a time sencelesse: which Eriphila espying, thinking to iumpe even with the Gentleman, pittying his passions, in that Fiordespine was so coy to so courteous a youth, sayd: You may see now Telegonus, that Venus hath her frownes, as shee both smiles: that Cupid hath arrowes headed with lead to procure disdain, as well as with golde to increase loue: heare mee that am a Virgin, as dutifull to Vesta, as reuerent to Venus.

The paines that louers take, so; hunting after losse, if their mindes were not confirmed with some secret incantment, were able to keepe their fancies so; being inflamed, or else to coole desire already kindled: so; the daies are spent in thoughts, and the nights in dreames: both in danger, either of beguiling vs of that wee had, or promising vs that wee haue not. The head fraught with fantasies, fiered with iclosie, troubled with both: yea so many inconueniencies waite vpon loue as to reckon them all, were infinite: and to taste but one of them were intollerable, being alwaies begun with griefe, continued with sorrow, and ended with death: so; it is a paine shadowed with pleasure, and a ioy stuffed with misery. So that I conclude, that as none euer saue the altars of Busiris without sorrow, nor banqueted with Phœbus without sursetting: so as impossible it is to deale with Cupid, and not either to gaine speedie death, or endlesse danger: As I was ready in defence of loue to make reply, there came a little page from their lady mother, to call them home to dinner: wherupon they all rose, and would haue taken their leaue, but boldy

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

I stood to my tackling, and told them : Ladies you passe not so ; for construe my meaning how you please , or accept of my repay how you list , I will not bee so discourteous to leaue you so slenderly guided , as in the guard of this little page : and with that I conducted them vnto the court , and there with a loth to depart , toke my leane , hauing a courteous farewell of all but of Fiordespine , who parming like Iuno , in her maiestie gaue mee a niggardly A dio with a nod : which notwithstanding , lone commanded me to take as a prodigall courtesie . Well , Telegonus thus left alone , fearing too much solitarinesse might breede intemperate passions , went home , musing on the strange qualities of his mistress : where taking himselfe on his bed , he began to consider , that as she was beautifull , so she was proud ; and that her exterior fauour was blemished with an interior disdain : that Venus was as much despised for her lightnesse , as honoured for her deity : that the blacke violet was more esteemed for her smell , then the Lilly for her whitenesse : that the darkest Topas was held more pretious then the brightest Crysell : and women are to bee measured by their vertues , and not by their beauties : And why dost thou bidge this Telegonus , for that shee hath not sated on thee at the first meeting , giuen ouer the fort at the first assault , and consented to thy loue at the first motion : wouldest thou haue her so light , fowd youth , as to stoope to the lure at the first call . Helena was wanton , yet was shee long in wooing : Paris courted her before he caught her : if a straggler made it strange , blame not her that is vertuous and a Virgin , if she be somewhat coy : resting in this hope , he somewhat appeased his passions , diuining away his melancholy and despairing humours , by setting his rest on this point . But loue that is impatient , was in the day his companion , and in the night his pillow : Venus commanded her sonne to be beaten with Roses , which as they are faire coloured , and sauer sweet , so they are full of prickes , and pierce the skin : Nowe , thus hammering in the head of Telegonus , hee was doubt .

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doubtfull what to do, or how best to prosecute his purpose: to repaire to the court, and there to court her, was to attempt an adventure very perillous and halfe impossible: to seeke meanes to parte with her, was to offer blank papers to Venus: therefore he resolved to write vnto her, and therupon entering into his studie, hee tooke pen and paper, and sent vnto her in this effect.

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Telegonus, to Fiordeispine, health.

**T**hey (honorable Fiordeispine) that are inuaded with the Hidaspis, if they presently discover not their paine, perish: such as are stung with the Tarantula, must haue musicke at their eare befoze the poison come at their heart: Venus temple is neuer shut: Cupids register euer vnfolded, and the secrets of loue, if they bee concealed, breed either danger by silence, or death by secrecy: I speake this by experience, for the deepe impression of your diuine beauty, committed with the admiration of your excellent vertues, haue printed such a character in my thoughts, since first I sawe your sweet selfe, as either must be confirmed with your mercie, or I shall be confounded with misery: where Cupid striketh, there no salues can preuaile, where loue serueth his wit of command, there a Superseadeas of reason is of no avails.

Beauty forceth the gods, and therefore may fetter men: but perhaps your honour will say, that the For is no phere for the Lion: none so meane a man as I worthy to gaze at so glorious a personage, so that I may rather be counted impudent, than passionate, in attempting that which so many my betters haue misse.

To this objection give mee leave to say, that Venus respects not the robes, but the minde: not the parentage, but the



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the minde: not the Parentage, but the person: not the wealth, but the heart: not the honours but the loyaltie: if then faith in fancie, not possessions, are to bee respected, I hope, as Nature by her secret iudgement hath endewd all creatures with some perfect quality, where want breeds dislike: as the Pole depriv'd of sight, hath a wonderful hearing: the Hare being very feareful, is most swift: the Fish having no eares, hath most cleere eyes: so I, of parentage meane, of wealth little, of wit lesse; yet have I giuen mee, by nature, such a loyall heart, as I hope the perfection of the one shall supply the want of the other, co-ueting not to rule as a Husband, but to line dutifull and louing euer to the Lady Fiordespine.

Blame me not Madame, if I pleade with my penne, for euer since I fell into the labyrynth of your lookes, I have felt in my heart, as in a little woyle, all the passions and contrarieties of the elements: for mine eyes (I call the gods to witnesse, I speake without sayning) almost turne into water, through the continuall streames of teares, and my sighes flie as winde in the ayre, proceeding from the flaming fire which is kindled in my heart, as that without the dropes of your pittie, it will turne my bodie into drie earth and cinders.

Then Fiordespine, sith your beauty hath giuen the wound, let it like Achilles speare, cure the same soze: co-uet not to set out the trophe of disdaine, where already you are conquered: strive not for life, sith you haue any liberty, but fetch water from the fountains of Alcidalie, simples from the hill Erecius, conserues from the temple of Venus, to appease that passion that otherwise cannot be cured: render but loue for loue, yea Madame, such loue as time shall neuer blot out with oblivion, neither any sinister fortune diminish. So that if the world wondred at the loyaltie of Petrarch to his Lawra, or of Amadis to his Gryance, they shall haue moze cause to maruell at the loue of Telegonus to Fiordespine, whose life and death standeth in



in your answer, which I hope shall bee such as belongeth to the desert of my loue, and the excellencie of your beautie.

Yours, if he be  
*Telegonus of Taprobane.*

**T**elegonus having finished his letter, caused it to be delivered to Fiordespine with great trustinesse and secrecie, who receiuing it with a frowning looke, as halfe suspecting the contents, yet vnripp'd the scales and read it: which when shee had thoroughly perused, dyaue her into such a furie, that shee in a rage rent it, and flung it into the fire, saying: There end his letters and his loues. But as the Sea once hop'd with a gale, calmeth not till it hath passed with a storme; as the stone Pyrites once set on fire burneth in the water: so a womans stomake once stirred, ceaseth not to be discontent, till it bee glutted with reuenge: so, Fiordespine not satisfied with tearing the letter of Telegonus, could take no rest, till either shee had breathed out some hard speeches with her tongue, or set downe bitter taunts with her pen, seeing therefore no fit meanes so; the one, shee slept in great choller to her standish, and wrote to him thus satyrically.

Fiordespine.

Fiordeaspine to Telegonus.

**T**hough Vulcan with his polt foote presumed to conet  
the queene of beauty : though Ixion aduentured to at-  
tempt the loue of Iuno : yet lord Telegonus, no offence to  
your person, these paltring presidents are no conclusions  
that persons unworthy should disgrace, by their impudent  
and worthlesse motions, the honours of excellent persona-  
ges. How I am greued at your letters, gesse by my sharp  
reply : how I like of your lines, examine in my writing :  
how I disdain them both, time shall put you in euidence.  
My beantie, you say, hath made an impression in your heart :  
a man of soft metall, that so soone takes the stampe ; a louer  
of great conceit, that is fired at the first looke : but since it is  
your gentle nature to be so full of fancie, I would haue the  
gods to make you either Venus chamberlaine, or Cupids  
chaplaine, or both : because being so amorous, you should  
not want offices : you so restalled me in red letters, with an  
oblection that many your betters haue courted me and mist :  
then good louely lord Telegonus, thinke not, if I delighted  
not to gaze at stars, that I meane to stumble at stones : if I  
boughsafe not to smel to most fragrant flowers, that I mean  
to make me a nosegay of words. If honorable princes offer  
red to Venus, and could not be heard, and sought for my fa-  
uours but found them not, I thinke : suppose the rest, for I  
list not be tedious, lest I should weary my selfe, and grace  
thee with writing so much. For thy loyalty keep it for thy  
equals : for thy loue, lay it not on me, lest as I disdain thy  
person, so I reuenge thy presumption. And so my hand was  
weary, my eyes sleepe, and my heart full of contempt, and  
with that I went to bed.

Her owne Fiordeaspine  
of Taprobane.

This

**T**his letter was no sooner sealed, but (as women are impatient of delays) it was conueied with all possible speed to Telegonus; who receiuing it, kissed and re-kissed it, as coming from the hands of his goddess, changing colour oft, as one betwene feare and hope: at last vnripping the scales, he read such a coxasue, as cut him to the heart. The Aspis stingeth not moze deadly, the serpent Porphyrus inuenometh not moze deeply, neither did euer the sight of Medusas head moze amaze a man, than the contents of this satyricall letter did Telegonus: yea it vbane the poore Gentleman into so many passions, that he became halfe lunaticke, as if hee had eaten of the seed of sputanta, that troubleth the braine with gibbinesse: he fell to exclaime against Venus and her deitie, blaming the gods that would suffer such a gigglet to remaine in heauen, repeating her lawlesse lones with Adonis, and her scapes with Mauors. Cupid he called a boy, a fondling, blind in his ayme, and accused in hitting the mark: rageth against women, saying: they were mercilesse, cruell, vnjust, deceitfull, like vnto the Crocodile in teares: in sight, they seeme to be Carnations; in smelling, Roses; in hearing, Syrens; in taste, woyme-wood; in touching, nettles: Thus he rapt and raged calling himselfe on his bed, and there sojgging a thousand perplexed passions; one while accusing lone as a lunaticke, and then againe saying: Beautie was diuine, and the richest felicitie that euer nature bestowes vpon men. Lingring a day or two in this frenzie, he thought not to giue over the Castle at the first repulse; nor to yeele so lewd a Huntsman as to giue over the chase at the first default, therefore he once againe armed himselfe with his pen and paper, and gave a fresh alarm to his friendly foe in this manner.

Tele-

Telegonus, to faire Fiordespine, of

*Taprobane.*

**H**onourable Ladie, the Physicians say, salues seldom  
helpe an once long suffered soze, and too late it is to  
plant Engines to batter, when the walls are already bzo-  
ken. Autumne shozes are euer out of season, and too late  
it is to dislodge loue out of the bzeff, when it hath infected e-  
uery part of the body. The soze, when the seething humo-  
r hath by long continuance made the sound flesh rotten, can  
neither with lenitive plaisters, nor cutting coasures be cu-  
red: so loue craueth but onely time to bring the body and  
mind to ruine. Your hono: seeing how deeply I am deu-  
ted to your beauty and vertue, hath sent mee pilles of hard  
digestion, to assuage the fozze of my loue, and quash the  
flame set on fire by fancy: but as the biting of the Asper  
rankleth, til it hath brought the body bitten to haire, so your  
exquisite perfection hath so pierced every veine with the  
sting of loue, that neither your bitter reply, nor satyrical in-  
uective, can in any wise prouaile, only the mild medicine of  
your mercie may salue the soze, and cut away the cause of  
my carefull disease.

The extremity of my loue, and the violence of my passi-  
ons, hath forced mee to hazard my selfe on your eleuencie:  
so; I was neuer of that minde to count him martiall, that at  
the first shot would yield by the keyes of the Citie: for the  
moze hard the rebut is, the moze hauntie is the conquest; the  
moze doubtfull the fight, the moze worthy the victorie; the  
moze paine I take about the battery, the moze pleasure to  
win the bulwarke of your bzeff, which if I should obtaine,  
I would count it a moze rich prize, then euer Scipio, or any  
of the nine Worthies wonne by conquest, and that these  
wozds

Greene's Metamorphosis.

may be verity, and not vanity; truth, and not triding: I  
appeale to your good grace and fauor, minding to be tried by  
your courtelle; abiding either the sentence of consent vnto  
life, or ventall vnto death.

Yours, even after death,  
Telegonus of Taprobane.

This letter finished and sent vnto Fiordepine, so trou-  
bled her patience, for that Telegonus was importunate,  
that she faced like the crowne of Bacchus, halfe mad at this  
secret emotion, swearing reuenge; if either her selfe or her  
friends could performe it: and in this humour she sent him  
by her Page, these few lines.



Fiordepine to Telegonus.

I had scarce read thy letters befoze I rent them, offering  
I thy papers and thy loue a like; for as I mislike the one, so  
I disdain the other. Hath ouer-much folly dyuon thee in-  
to a frensie, or hath want of manners made thee impudent:  
Wilt thou bragge with Irus the begger amongst Penelopes  
sutors; or take with the smoky Cyclops to kisse Venus  
hand? looke on thy feete, and so let fall thy plumes: stretch  
not so high, vntesse thy scene were longer: for Fiordepine  
learneth so much as to looke at Telegonus in respect of loue;  
as Iuno did to Iust with the father of the Centaures.

If I knew thy passions were as great, as thou decriest  
rest thy griefe, and thy thoughts as fiery as the hills in Syci-  
ly, I would laugh at the one, as Ioying at thy sorowes, and  
put oyle in the flame, as delighting to aggravate thy mis-  
eries.

# Greenes Metamorphosis.

ries. With then thou seest my resolution to be so rigorous  
(ouer-rash youth) betake thee to thy dumptes, and sate how  
thou list: for know, I mislike thy sute, and hate thy person,  
and will liue and dye thine enemy, if for no other cause, yet  
for that thou hast dared to court Fioridespine.

Thy mortall enemy,

*Fioridespine of Taprobane.*

**A**fter that Telegonus had read this letter, saued with  
such peremptory disdain, hee fell in a trance, lying in  
his bed as a dead carcase: but when he was come to himself,  
hee fell into such extreme passions, that his father and his  
friends comming into the Chamber, thought him possessed  
with some spirit: the physician felt his pulses; and found  
hee had a sound body, wherenpon they did coniecture it was  
long: and to verifie the same, after he had raised himself up  
in his bed, with a gally looke, he cryed nothing but Fiorde-  
spine, fetching such grievous groanes & deepe sighes, that all  
the chamber fell into teares: wherenpon the old Earle, ha-  
ving his haire as white as snowe, came himselfe trudging to  
the Court, telling the extreme passion of his son, entreating  
Fioridespine that she would so much as vouchsafe to come to  
his house, onely with her presence some what to mitigate  
his sonnes passions: but such was the pride and disdain of  
my daughter, that neither the teares of the old Earle, the in-  
treaty of my son, nor my command could preuaile with her,  
insomuch, that the old man returned comfortlesse and sor-  
rowing. Well, Telegonus lying thus distressed by the space  
of a weeke, at last saining himselfe to amend, would needs  
walk abroad that he might be solitary; and stumbled weake  
as hee was into this vale, and to this place, where sitting  
downe he fell into these passions: Infortunate Telegonus,  
whose stars at thy nativity were in some cursed aspect, why  
didst thou not perish at thy birth, or how did fortune strowe  
that



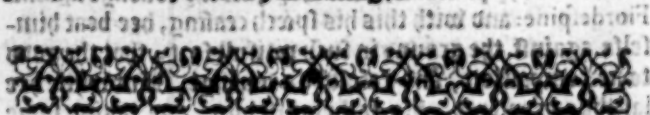
Græciæ Metamorphosis.

that thou wert not wiser in the floating cloathes: not  
growne to ripe yeres; thou feelst more miserie than thou  
hast lived moments: ah love, that labyrinth that leadeth  
men to worse dangers then the Spynners in Greece: love  
that kindlest desire, but allowest no reward: inconstant Ve-  
nus, whose sacrifices savour of death, whose labours are ty-  
rannous, whose favours are misfortune! Arripet as thou  
art; (for I disdain to tell thee goodesse) thou and the ba-  
lard that thy sonne, shew your power, pour drinke: revenge  
my blasphemies how you can; so; how great sorrow your  
choller be; my calamitie cannot bee more. Sperritelle wo-  
men, whose faces are lures, whose beauties are baits,  
whose lokes are nets, whose words are charmes, and all to  
bring men to ruine. But of all, cruell Fiordeaspine, borne of  
a Teger, and nursed of the three Moones in Syria: whose  
heart is full of hate, whose thoughts are disdain, whose  
beautie is overlain with pride. Let Venus, if shee have any  
insire, or Cupid, if he have the equitie of a god, make thee  
love where thou shalt be mistak. Alas Telegonus, cease not  
with these prayers, the revenge is too easie, but cry to the bit-  
ternesse of thy passions; that they quit thy revenge against  
Fiordeaspine: and with this his speech ceasing, hee beat him-  
selfe against the ground in such pitifull sort, that the gods  
tooke compassion, and resolved a revenge. But while hee  
lay thus perplexed, his father mist him; and taking some  
of his Gentlemen with him, sought him, and found him in  
this Valley, passionate and speechlesse. The rumour of  
Telegonus distresse came to the Court: whereupon, I, and  
my sonne, with my other two daughters so intreated Fior-  
deaspine, that shee granted to go see the Gentleman: walking  
therfore to this place, here we found him accompanied with  
his friends, all sighing with teares, how they grieved  
at his mishap. Telegonus no soone sawe Fiordeaspine, but  
turning himselfe upon the grasse with a bitter look, hee  
first gay'd her on the face, then lifting up his eyes to heaven,  
gaue a great sigh, as though his heart-strings had broke:

## Ovidius Metamorphosis

which Floridaspine perceiving, triumphing in the passions  
of her lover, then turned her backe and smiled. So carce had  
she from this scornfull countenance; but Mercury sent  
from the gods, in a shepherds attires, brooke her on the  
head with his Caduceus, and turned her into this marble  
picture, which we amazed at; and Telegonus noting, tur-  
ning himselfe on his left side, groined forth these words, the  
gods have reuenged, and I am satisfied: and with that hee  
gane by the ghost. The old Carle grieved at the death of his  
sonne, taking vp his body, departed: I sorrowing at the  
Metamorphosis of my daughter, wept: but to small effect:  
for euer since she hath remained, as thou seest a wonder to  
the world, and a perpetuall grieve to me.

Thus (sonne) hast thou heard the discourse of my daugh-  
ters misfortune, which hath not been to delightfull for thee  
to heare, as greivous for me to retelle: but seeing I am  
entred into the discoveries of their ill, no longer shall wee  
have taken our repast; but I will shew thee what fortune  
to her second sister Eriphile. for I knowe the nature of men  
is desirous of novelties: and with that taking inde by the  
hand, we went home to her Cottage.



### The second Discourse

**W**ee had no sooner dined with our homely deli-  
cates, tamping our times with psattle of Fior-  
daspine; but Alcida rose up, and walked to a  
Grove hard by, a place interseawed with the abbes, but pla-  
ced between two hills, like the supposed entrance of hell, as  
there seemed that melancholy Saturne had created an Aca-  
demic. Entiring into this Grove so thicke as Pheebus had  
denied passage, wandring awhile by many vnicouth paths,

at



As I was climbing these borders, from the thicket there  
came a bird sitting, of colour gray, which honored over  
the head of Alcida; as though she had fainted her with her  
wings; I marvelled at the familiaritie of the fowls, and  
with that she changed colours, from gray to white, and then  
to redde, so to Greene: and as many sundry shapes, as eu-  
ery Iris blazed in the Firmament: so that by the changing of  
hiewes, I perceived it to be Cameleon: As thus I stood mu-  
ling at the bird, Alcida took me by the hand, and satte downe  
at one of the roots of the Cedars, bidding mee be attentive,  
and shee would discourse the euill fortune of her second  
daughter, Eriphila, the which I willingly consented vnto:  
shee began her tale in this manner.



The second Historie of ERIPHILA  
of T apobane.

**A**fter that my daughter Fierdespine was metamo-  
phosed by the gods, in reuenge of her cruelty to Te-  
legonus: time hauing rote out some part of my  
sorowes, I beganne to solace my selfe with the other two  
daughters, Eriphila and Marpesia. This Eriphila was as  
wittie, as her sister was beautifull, so that she was admired  
in T apobane, and all the bowtering regions about, account-  
tes (though not in pieces, yet in wit) a sibil: being able  
to answer as darke an Enigma, as the subtillest Sphinx  
was able to propound: and I tel thee, sonne, as she was fa-  
uoured by Pallas, so Venus was not behind in her fauours:  
so; she was beautifull, inso much, that these gifts co-bri-  
ted, made sundry Duters come from sundry coastes, to bee  
towers to such a wily Spinton.

Amongst the rest, by fortune, there arrived in this coast,  
imbarked

unbarked in a small Pinace, the Dukes sonne of Massilia, called Meribates : who coming on shoare for fresh water, came to see the Court of Taprobane : where being greatly welcommed by my sonne, falling into talk with my daughters, hee found Eriphila so adozned with a supernaturall kinde of wit, as hee was snared in the sweetnesse of her answeres : swallowing downe the conceit of her wisdom with such greedinesse, that hee lay drunk in the remembrance of her qualities ; finding severall delayes to make stay in the country couertly : causing his Pariners to crack their tackling, to unrigge their Shippe in the night, that they might have iust cause to lye there the most part of that Summer. A one beginning to make this youngster politike, caught him so fast by the heart, that Mars was neuer more feately intangled in Vulcans net, nor the sojourners of Iason more subtilly wapped in the labyzinth, then Meribates was in the snares of fancie : for what he talked, even amongst the meanest of his Pariners, was of Eriphila : his thoughts, his musing, his determinations, his resolutions, his dayes watchings, his night slumbers were of the excellent wit of Eriphila, insomuch that loue lodged the Poniice vnder her Canapie, where hee breathed out these passions.

Inforsunate Meribates, whom the enuious Fates haue scojned to make inforsunate ! Hast thou mann'd thy selfe in a Barke to scoure the Seas, and in this quest art thou like to lose thy senses ? Soughtest thou to abide the pleasure of Neptune, and art faine to stand to the courtesie of loue ? Hast thou found flames amidst the waues ? Fire in the water, and fancy where no affection was meant ? Well now I see, that as the Bee that flyeth from slowze to slowze, hauing free choyse to choose at libertie, is at last taken by the wings, and so fettered : In like manner, my fancy taking the view of manie a face, hath a restraint of his freedome, and is brought into bondage with the wit of a stranger : But Meribates, wilt thou loue so lightly ?

F

Shall



Shall fancy giue thee the toll at the first dash? Shall thine eares bee the cause of thy misery? Wilt thou with Vlasses heare the Syrens sing, listen to their melody, and runne on to endlesse misfortune?

Eriphila is wise, so was Helena, yet they played the wanton with Paris: shee answers like the Virgin at Delphos, and her woords are as Nectar. Roses are sweete, yet they haue prickles: the purest harts bee is not without his sting: wit in a woman is like Oyle in the flame, which either kindleth to great vertue, or extreme vanity: Tell Meribates, howsoeuer it bee, wit cannot bee placed so bad but it is precious: What is beauty but a colour dash't with euery breath, a flower nipt with euery frost, a fauour that time and age defaceth: whereas wit increaseth by yeeres; and that lone continueth longest, that is taken by the eare, not by the eye: yeeld then Meribates, when thou must needs consent; runne when thou art called by command: Pallas is wise, and will not bee ingratefull to her botaries: say none, but Eriphila: for sure, if euer thou wilt bestowe thy freedom, shee is worthy to haue thee captive. If thou meanest to marrie, thou canst not haue a better match: yea, but how if her heart be placed, and her mind settled vpon some Gentleman in Taprobane? then were it a great deale better to wayle at the first, then to weepe at the last: to be content with a little pricke, then a deepe wound; to resist lone at the bosome than at the bottom.

The Scorpion, if he touch neuer so lightly incenoneth the whole body: the least sparke of wilde fire will set an whole house on flame: the Cockatrice killeth euery with his sight: the King of lons woundeth deadly: the flame of fancie sets on fire all the thoughts; and the eyes of a louer are counted incurable.

Fearfulness (Meribates) in lone is a vertue: hast thou turned ouer so many booke of Philosophy, and hast thou not quoted Phocas precept to bee fruitfull? that louers should



## Grienes Metamorphosis

Should proceede in their suite, as the Crabbe, whose pace is ever backward; that though loue bee like the Adamant which hath vertue to drawe, yet thou shouldst bee sprinkled with Coates bloud, which resisteth his operation. If the wit of some Pallas Nymphes haue inclosed thy minde, yet thou shouldst take the Dyle of Nenuphar, that cooleth desire: what Meribates, wilt thou become a precise Pythagoras, in recounting of loue? No, let not the precepts of Philosophy subiect the will of nature; youth must haue his course: he that will not loue when hee is young, shall not bee loned when hee is olde: say then Meribates, and neuer gaine-say, that Eriphila is the marke thou shootest at: that her surpassing wit is the Syren, whose song hath enchanted thee: and the Cyrres cup which hath so solted thy senses, as either thou must with Vliesses haue a speedy remedie, or else remaine transfoymed. Consider Meribates the cause of thy loue, lest thou faile in the effects. As the foundation of thy fancy fired upon her feature; think with thy selfe, Beautie is but a blossome, whose flower is nipt with euery frost: it is like the grasse in India, which withereth before it springeth: What is moze faire, yet what moze fading? What moze delightfull, yet nothing moze deably? What moze pleasant, and yet what is moze perillous?

Beautie may well bee compared to the bath in Calycus: whose streams flow as cleere as the fount Padus, and whose operation is as pessilent, as the Riuer Ormen: I but Meribates, what moze cleere then the Cryfall, and what moze precious? What moze comely then cloth of Arras, so what moze costly? What creature so beautifull as a woman, and what so estimable? Is not the Diamond of greatest dignity that is most glistering: and the pearle thought most precious, that is most perfect in colour?

Aristotle saith, they cannot be counted absolutely happy, although they had all the vertues, if they want beautie: yea, Apollonius (an arch-heretike, and a professed enemy

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

against the sacred lawes of beauty) is giuen both by the lawes of Nature, and nurture, to confesse that Vertue is the moze acceptable, by how much the moze it is placed in a beautifull bodie: but what long digressed discourse is this thou makest of beautie, Meribates? it is not vpon such a sicke foundation thou buildest thy loue: but vpon her wit, which only parteth with death: and therefore whatsoeuer Philosophie, or learning wils, I will consent vnto nature, for the best Clarkes are not the wisest men: whatsoeuer wisdome wils, I wil at this time giue the crimes of beautie to my amorous passions; for he that makes curiositie in loue, will so long straine courtesie, that either hee will be counted a solemne suter, or a witlesse twer: therefore, whatsoeuer the chance be, I will cast at all.

Meribates hauing thus debated with himselfe, rested on this resolution: that he would moderate his affection, vntill he found opportunity to discourse his mind to Eriphila: who on the contrary side noting the persectis of Meribates, was moze enamored of his person and qualities, then Philis of Demophon, or Dido of the false and vniust Trojan: for he was so courteous in behauiour, so liberall not onely of his purse, but his courtesie, that he had wonne all their hearts in Taprobane.

These considerations so tickled the mind of Eriphila, that shee fell thus to debate with her selfe. What meanes (Eriphila) these strange and sodaine passions: shall thy stayd life be compared now to the Camelion, that turneth her self into the likenesse of euery obiect: to the herbe Phanaros, whose budde is sweet, and the roote bitter: to the Hauens in Arabia, which being young, haue a pleasant voice, but in their age a horrible crye: wilt thou consent vnto lust, in hoping to loue? Shall Cupid claime thee for his captiue, who euen now wert bowed a vnsull Virgine? Shall thy tender age bee moze vertuous then thy ripe yeres? What, shall the beauty of Meribates inchant thy minde, or his filed speech bewitch thy senses: Shall the pro-  
perty

Greene's Metamorphosis.

perly of a stranger oꝛaue thee on to affection? If thou  
shouldest hap to like him, would hee not thinke the Castle  
wanted but scaling, that peeldeth at the first shot? That  
the bulwarke wanteth but batterie; that at the first parley  
peelds by the keyes? Yes, yes Eriphila, his beauty argues  
inconstancy, and his painted phrases deceit: and if he see  
thee worne with a woꝛd, hee will thinke thee lost with the  
winde: he will iudge that which is lightly to be gained, is  
as quickly lost.

The Watke that commeth at the first call, will neuer  
pꝛoue stedfast on the stand. The Piece that will be reclaim-  
ed to the fist, at the first sight of the lure, will bate at every  
push: The woman that will loue at the first look, will ne-  
uer be charie of her choyce. Take heed Eriphila, the finest  
scabbard hath not ouer the byanest blade; no; the goodliest  
chest hath not the most gorgeous treasure: the Well with  
the best sound hath an iron clapper: the sading apples of  
Tantalus haue a gallant shewe, but if they be touched, they  
turne to ashes: So a faire face may haue a soule mind; sweet  
woꝛds, a sowꝛe heart: yea rotten bones out of a painted se-  
pulchꝛe; so; all is not gold that glitters. Why, but yet  
the Gemme is chosen by his biew, and the cloth by his co-  
lour: condemne not then Eriphila, befoze thou hast cause:  
accuse not so strictly without tryall; search not so narrow-  
ly, till thou hast occasion of doubt.

Yea, but the Pariners sound at the first, so; feare of a  
Rocks: the Chirurgion tainteth betimes, so; his surest  
pꝛoofe: one soze-wit is woꝛth two after: it is not good to  
beware when the act is done: too late commeth repentance:  
what is it the beauty of Meribates that kindleth this flame?  
who moze beautifull then Iason, yet who moze false? so; af-  
ter Medea had peelded, he sacked the soꝛt, and in liew of her  
loue, he killed her with kindnesse. Is it his wit? who wi-  
ser then Theseus, yet none moze traitorous?

Beware Eriphila, I haue heard thee say: she that mar-  
ries so; beautie, so; every dramme of pleasure, shall haue  
a pound

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

a pound of sorrow: choose by the eare, not by the eye. Meribates is faire, so was Paris, and yet tickle: hee is witty, so was Corisus, and yet wauering: No man knoweth the nature of the hearbe, by the outward shew, but by the inward taste; and the operation consists in the matter, not in the forme.

The Fore winnes the fauour of the Lambes by play, and then deuours them: so perhaps Meribates shewes himselfe in outward shewe a demy god: whereas who tries him inwardly, shall finde him but a solemne saint. Why, since his arriual in Taprobane, all the Island speaks of his vertue and courtesie: but perchance hee makes a vertue of his neede, and so layes this basliners hok of sained honesty, as a luring baite to trap some simple Dame.

The cloth is neuer tried, vntill it come to the wearing, nor the linnen neuer shynkes, till it comes to the wetting: so want of liberty to vse his will, may make a restraint of his nature: and though in a strange place hee vse faith and honesty to make his marriage, yet the perhaps that shall try him, shall either find he neuer had them, or quite forgot them: for the nature of men (as I haue heard say) is like the Ambre-stone, which will burne outwardly, and frieze inwardly: and like the bark of the Mirtle trees that grow in Armenia, that is as hot as fire in the taste, and as colde as water in the operation.

The dogge biteth softest when he doth not barke: the Dir is hottest, when it looks white: the Syrens meane most mischief when they sing: the Tyger then hydeeth his crabbed countenance, when he meaneth to take his prey: and a man doth most dissemble when hee speaketh fairest. Wrie then Eriphila ere thou trust, especially since hee is a stranger: proue ere thou put in practise: call the water befoze thou appoint the medecine: doe all things with deliberation: goe as the Snail faire and softly, haste makes waste: the malt is euer sweetest, where the fire is softest: let not wit ouercome wisdom, nor the hope of a husband be the hazard

hazard of thine honestie: cast not thy credits on the chance of a stranger, who perchance may prove to thee as I beleue did to Ariadne: wade not too far where the Lord is unknowne: rather hide thy affections with reason, and mortifie thy mind with modesty: that as thou hast kept thy Virginitie inviolate without spot, so thy choice may bee without blemish: know this, it is too late to call againe the day past: therefore keepe the memorie of Meribates as needfull, but not necessarie: like him, whom thou shalt haue occasion to loeue, and loeue where thou hast tried him loeall: vntill then remaine indifferent.

When Eriphila had vttered these words, she straight (to auoide all dumps that solitarie might breede), came to me and her sister, and there passed away the day in prattle. Thus these two louers passionate, and yet somewhat patient, for that hope had ministred lenitie plaisters to their new wounds, passed ouer two or three daies onely with glances and looks, betwaxing their thoughts with their eyes, which they could not discover with their tongues: Venus taking pittie of her patients, found them out so fit occasion, that as Eriphila with her sister Marpesia were walking alone in the garden, gathering of flowers, at that instant (guided by loue and fortune) Meribates went into the garden to be solitarie, where straight he espied his mistress walking with her sister: now Meribates was driuen into an extasie, with the extreme pleasure hee conceived in the sodaine sight of his goddesse: insomuch, as hee stood amazed for feare, and necessity found a deadly combat in the mind of Meribates: he doubted if he should be ouer bold, to giue offence to Eriphila, and so spill his pottage. But the law of necessitie (saith Plato) is so hard, that the gods themselves are not able to resist it: for as the water that by nature is cold, is made hot by the force of fire, and the straight tree pressed downe groweth alwayes crooked, so nature is subiect to necessitie, that kind cannot haue his course: and yet if there be any thing which is more forcible then necessitie,



it is the lawe of loue, which so incensed Meribates, that casting all feare aside, he offered himselfe to his mistresse, with this courtious parle.

Gentlewomen, if my presumption do trouble your muses, yet the cause of my boldnesse deserueth pardon, sith where the offence proceedeth of loue, there the pardon en-sueth of course: I stood in a maze at the first sight, for mee thought you resembled Pallas and Iuno, departing away from Venus, after shee had twome the ball: you Adam Eriphila, like the one for wit, and Marpesia like the other for maiestie: but howsoeuer (sweet saints) you grace this Garden with your presence, as Diana both the Croues, and honour mee, in admitting so vnwoorthy a man into the company of such excellent personages. Eriphila hearing Meribates in these tearmes, giuing a gloze to her face, by staining her cheekes with a vermillion blush, both sharply and shortly made this reply.

It is neuer presumption (lord Meribates) that fortune presents by chance, and therefore no pardon, where is no offence: our musing was not great, onely gathering slowzes which wee like by the hiew, but know not by the vertue: herein resembling louers, that aiming at the fairest, oft stumble on such as are little worth: If you haue made vs any fault, it is in giuing vs so kinde a sumpe, with your unlikely comparison: I being as vnlike to Pallas in wit, as Vulcan to Mars in property: and shee as far different from Iuno in maiestie, as olde Bawcis was to Venus in beauty: but you Gentlemen of Massilia haue the habite of iesting, and therefore since it is a fault of Nature, we bwoke it, and beare with it.

Meribates hearing so courtious and witty an answer, swilled in loue as merrily as euer Iupiter did vertue: so that delighting to heare his mistresse prattle, hee prosecuted his talks thus.

As I am glad, Adam, that my rashnesse was no occasion of offence, so I am sozrie you take what I vttered in earnest



earnest, to be spoken in sport: my comparison as I infer-  
red it, so by your patience I dare maintaine it, if not able  
by reasons, for that I am no scholar: yet by love, for that  
I shall draw mine arguments from fancie, which hath yet  
on fire a poore Strangers heart, that he deemes your sweet  
selfe not only like Pallas, but Pallas her selfe: so that had I  
in this humour beene Judge for Paris in the vale, wit (not  
beauty) had gotten what they stroue for.

I but sir (quoth Marpesia) from whence will you draw  
your arguments to prove mee in amoretie like Iuno? you  
dare not say, from reason, in regard of the persons are with-  
out compare; and from love if you argue, you prove your  
selfe double faced like Ianus, and double hearted like Iupi-  
ter, to have two strings to a bowe, and two loves at one  
time.

Nes Adam, quoth Meribares, my common place in  
this, Enthymema shall bee also from love, for in affecting  
so dearly your sister, I cannot but deeply honour you; if  
not in love as my Paramour, yet in friendly affection as  
her sister.

You harpe still, answered Eriphila, on one string, which  
is love: if you be in earnest, looke so a frowne, as I gave  
you a favour: beleue me, lord Meribares, there is nothing  
easier than to fall in love, no harder than to chauce well;  
therefore, omitting such serious matter as fancie, for that  
I am bowd to Vesta, tell mee, will you provide you, as Ioe,  
of a Possegay? And if you be so minded, tell me, of all flow-  
ers which like you best: Those, Adam, that best fit with  
my present humour. And what bee they, quoth Marpesia?  
Pensies, Adam, answered Meribares, for it is a prettie  
flowre, and of sundrie colours, feeding the eye with va-  
riety, which is the chiefe pleasure to the sight: especial-  
ly I like it for the agnominatation, in that the word com-  
ming from France, signifies fancies. Now how I am con-  
tented with fancies, I would you could as well see, as I  
feele.

One while imagination presents vnto me the Idea of my mistris face, which I allote with a fancie: another while a thought of her beaultie wakens my senses, which I consojme with a fancie: straight her vertues sayes there is most excellent, which I gratifie with a fancie: then to seale by what may bee sayd, her rare and supernaturall witt sayes, her conceits are diuine, which answered with a catalogue of solemne oathes, I set downe as a maxime, with a fancie.

Thus are my thoughts fed with fancies: and to be briel, my life is lengthned out by fancies: then Adam, blame me not if I like Wenses well; and thinke nothing; if I set no other flowes in my nosogay. And truly loyd Meribares, answered Eriphila, you and I are of one mind, I meane in choice of flowes, but not sir, as it is called a Wense, or as you descant on fancies: but as we homely Husbandines call it, Heartsease, for of all contents I thinke this the greatest; for in naming this word Heartsease, I banish (as with a charme) the frownes of fortune, and the sellies of lone, for the partie that is toucht by the inconstancy of the one, or the vanitie of the other, cannot boast her meaneth hearts ease: seeing then it breedeth such rest vnto the minde, and such quiet to the thoughts, we will both weare this flowe as a saour, you as a Wense, but I as Heartsease.

As these two louers were thus merrily descanting vpon flowes, I came into the Garden, and found this young loyd and my daughter at chat, no whit displeased, in that I knew the honour of his house, his great possessions and parentage, I wolnt at their loues, and after a little ordinary parte called them in to dimer: where there was such banding of glances and amorous looks, betwene Meribares and Eriphila, as a blinde man might haue seene the creeple hault: well, dimer being ended, as Meribares entred first to the consideration of Eriphilas witt, so shee mooue inpatient, as shee had that neuer hauing felt the spurre, runneth at the first picke; so she neuer hauing felt befoze the like

## Greene's Metamorphosis.

like flame, was more hot, and less heartie, than it before  
she had borne stoached with affliction.

But she called him in her thoughts beautifull, saying;  
that the fairest and greenest herbes haue the most secret o-  
peration: shee sayd hee was well proportioned, and so  
the reddest Sparganthes had the most precious vertues:  
that hee was vertuous, and then shee called to minde the  
olde verse:

*Gnatio est pulchro veniens & corpore virum.*

But when shee weighed his wise and witty arguments  
that he uttered in the garden, how they not onely sauored of  
wit, but of mirth: then

*Omnia vincit amor, & nos cedamus auri.*

shee could not but in her conscience sweare, that hee  
should be the saint at whose thyng she would offer vp her de-  
uotion. These two loners thus liuing the more happily,  
for that they rested vpon hope, it pleased my Sonne and mee  
to walke abroad into a park hard adioining to the Court,  
and with vs my two Daughters, and so get the strangers  
we could not: putting thus abroad to take aire, when we  
were in the greene meades, Meribates and my daughter  
had singled themselves, and he taking time while she proffer-  
ed opportunity, began boldly to court her in this manner.  
It is an olde saying (Adam) holden as an Oracle, that  
in many wordes lyeth mistrust, and in painted speech deceit  
is often couered. Wherefore I (sweet mistress) whose ac-  
quaintance with you is small, and credit lesse, as being a  
stranger, dare vs no circumstance for feare of mistrust,  
neither can I tell in what respect to bring a sufficient trial  
of my good will, but only that I wish the end of my love to  
be such, as my faith and loyalty is at this present, which I  
hope tract of time shall trie without spot.

Groones Metamorphosis

The wile, Eriphila, hath bought my freedom, and the wile  
dome hath made me captiue, that as he which is hurt of the  
scorpion, seeketh a salve from whence he received the soze, so  
you onely may minister the medicine which procured the  
disease. The burning feuer is dytuen out with a hot potion,  
the shaking palse with a cold drinke: loue onely is reme-  
died by loue, and fancie must be cured by continuall affec-  
tion.

Therefore, Eriphila, I speake with teares outwardly,  
and with drops of bloud inwardly, that vnlesse the misting  
showeres of your mercy mitigate the fire of my fancy, I am  
like to buy loue & repentance with death: but perhaps you  
will object, that the beasts which gaze at the Panther, are  
guilty of their own death: that the mouse taken in the trap,  
deserueth her chance: that a louer which hath free will, de-  
serueth no pittie, if he fall into any amorous passions. Can  
the straw resist the vertue of the pure Jet, or share the  
soze of the fire: can a louer withstand the byunt of beauty,  
or freeze if he stand be the flame, or preuent the lawes of na-  
ture: weigh all things equally, and then I doubt not but to  
haue a iust iudgement: and though small acquaintance may  
breede mistrust, and mistrust hinders loue: yet tract of time  
shall inferre such tryall, as I trust shall kindle affection.  
And therefore I hope you will not put a doubt till occasion  
be offered, nor call his credit in question, whome neyther  
you haue found nor heard to be halting: what though the  
Serpentine powder is quickly kindled, and quickly out:  
yet the Salamander stone once sette on fire, can neuer bee  
quenched: as the sappye Myrtle tree will quickly rotte, so  
the Bethim wood wil neuer be eaten with wormes: though  
the Polype changeth colour, euery houre, yet the Sapphyr  
will cracke, before it will consent to disloyalty. As all things  
are not made of one mould, so all men are not of one  
minde: so as there hath bene a troublelesse Iason, so there  
hath bene a trustie Troylus, and as there hath been a dis-  
sembling Damocles, so there hath bene a loyall Lelius. And  
sure,

sure Epiphila, I call the gods to witness, without saying, that fish thy wit hath so bewitched my heart, my loyalty and love shall bee such, as thy honour and beautie both merite. With therefore my fancie is such, repay but halfe so much in recompence, and it shall bee sufficient. Epiphila hearing this passionate speech of Meribates, made him this answer.

LORD Meribates, it is hard taking the fowle when the net is deserted, and ill catching of fish when the hook is bare, and as impossible to make her believe that will give no credite, and to perceive her that spieth the fetch. When the string is broken, it is hard to hit the white, when a mans credite is called in question, it is hard to perswade one. Blame me not (Meribates) if I bidge you so strictly, nor thinke nothing if I suspect you narrowly: a woman may knit a knot with her tongue, that shee cannot untie with all her teeth, and when the signet is set on, it is too late to breake the bargaine, therefore I had rather mistrust too soone, then mislike too late: I had rather feare my choice, then rue my chance: for a woman's heart is like the stone in Egypt, that will quickly receive a forme, but neuer change without cracking. If then I feare, thinke mee not cruell, nor scrupulous, if I be wise for my selfe: the Wolfe hath as smooth a skin as the lambe sheepe the sowre Elder hath a fairer barke then the sweete Juniper: where the sea is calmest, there it is deepest, and where the greatest colour of honestie is, there oftentimes is the most want: for Venus vessels haue the lowdest sound, when they are most empty: and a dissembling heart hath more eloquence then a faithfull minde, for truth is ever naked: I will not, LORD Meribates, runne from my particular comparison.

Thus I cast all these doubts, and others haue tryed them true, yet am I forced by fancy to take some remoyse of thy passions. Medea knew the best, but yet followed the worst in choosing Iason: but I hope not to finde thee so wandering.



Greene's Metamorphosis.

Tell Meribates, to be short and plaine, thou hast wonne the castle that many haue besieged, and hast obtained that which others haue sought to gaine: it is not the shape of thy beautie, but the hope of thy loyalty which inticeth me: not thy faire face, but thy faithful heart: not thy parentage, but thy manners: not thy possessions, but thy vertues: so; she that builds her loue vpon beauty, meanes to fauour but so; a while: would God I might find thee such a one as I will trie my selfe to be, so; whereas thou dost protest such loialtie, which suppose it be true, yet shall it be but counterfeit respecting mine, be thou but Admetus, and I will be Alcest, no torments, no trauell: no, only the losse of life shall diminish my loue, in lieu thereof remaine thou but constant, and in pledge of my protested god will, haue heere my heart and hand to be thine in dust and ashes.

Here (son) maist thou iudge into what quandary Meribates was diuened, when he heard the answer of his mistris so correspondent to his sute: the prisoner being condemned hearing the rumoz of his pardon, neuer reioiced more: then Meribates did at this pronouncing of his happinesse. Well, these louers thus agreeing, brake off from their parle for feare of suspicion, and ioured with companie, where falling into other talke, ine past away the afternoone in many pleasant deuices, Eriphila and Meribates thus satisfied, lying in most happy content, honoring no deity but Venus, determined as well as opportunity would in huster occasion to breake the matter to use and her betime: but in the meane while my Sonne proclaymed so; his delight, certaine Iustices and Turnepes, whither reioiced all the byassett Noblemen and Gentlemen in Taprobane, where they performed many worthe and honourable deedes of Chivalry. The Iustices ended, my sonne bade them all to a banquet; where, to grace the booz and to honour the companie, was placed my daughters, Eriphila and Marpesia: gaged on they were so; their beauties, and admired so; their honourable behauiour.



Eriphila, whose eye walked about the troope of these lustie Gallants, espied a young gentleman midst the rest, called Lucidor, the sonne of an Esquire, a man of personage tall and well proportioned, of face passing amiable, of behaviour well nurtured. This Gallant furnished with these singular qualities, so set on fire Eriphilas fancie, that as if she had drunk of the fountaine in Ardenia, her hot loue was turned to a cold liking. Now her heart was set upon Lucidor, which of late was bowled to Meribates, in such sort that her stomacke lost the wonted appetite, to feed the eyes with the beauty of her new louer, as that she seemed to haue eaten of the herbe Sputania, which thrusteth by the stomacke for a long season. Yea so impatient was her affection, as she could not forbear to gine him such looks, that the Gentleman perceiued shee was either resolved to outface him, or else affected towards him. Well, the dinner ended, and the Gentlemen all departed, Eriphila getting secretly to her closet, began to fall into these tearm es.

Unfortunate Eriphila, what a contrariety of passions breeds a confused discontent in thy minde? What a warre doest thou feele betweene the constant resolution of a loue, and the inconstant determination of a lecher, betweene fancie and faith, loue and loyalty? What thou prouest Eriphila, as false as Venus, who for every effeminate face hath a new fancy and faith, loue and loyalty? What thou prouest Eriphila, as false as Venus, who for every effeminate face hath a new fancy? as troubleless as Cressida, that changes her thoughts with her peeres; as inconstant as Helena, whose heart had more louers, than the Camellion colour? Will thou be true the loyalty to one, and not proue wedded to any? The Turtle chuseth, but neuer changeth: the Lion after that he hath entred league with his mate, doth neuer conuert a new choice: these haue but nature for their guides, and yet are constant, thou hast both nature and nurture, and yet art mutable: breaking thine oth without compassion, and the faith without constraint, whereas nothing is so bound

fed as periury, and a woman having crackt her loyaltie, is halfe hanged. Ciullia being betrothed to Horatius secundus, chose rather to be rackt to death, than to falsifie her constancie.

Lamia a Concubine, could by no torments bee haled from the lone of Aristogiton, what perils suffered Cariclia for Theagynes? Let these examples Eriphila, moue thee to be constant to Meribates: be thou stedfast and no doubt thou shalt not finde him stragling. Causiana, when she came into the Court to swaie that she neuer loued Sudaalos, became dumbe, and after sell mad: beware of the like rewarde, if thou commit the like offence. Tush, they that would refrain from drinke because they heard Anacreon dyed with the pot at his head, or that hateth an egge, because Appeyus Sauleyus dyed in eating of one, would bee noted for persons halfe mad: so if I should stand to my peny-worth, having made my market like a sole, and may change for the better, because other in like case haue had ill hap, I may either be counted saint hearted or foolish. What Eriphila, Iupiter laught at the periurie of lovers. Meribates is faire, but not second to Lucidor: he is wittie, but the other moze wise: well what of this, but how wilt thou answer Meribates? tush, cannot the Cat catch mice, but shee must haue a bell hanged at her eare: he that is afraid to venter on the Buck, for that he is wapt in the byers, shall neuer haue hunters hap: and hee that puts a doubt in lone at euery chynce shall neuer haue lovers lucke: well, howsoeuer it be, Lucidor shall be mine, hee shall haue my heart, and I his, or else I will sit beside the saddle: and thus having debated with her selfe, she rested perplexed, till shee might haue a sight of her new lover: which was not long: for Lucidor no sooner got home, but calling to minde the amorous glances of Eriphila, and noting both her beauty and her wit, although her honour was farre beyond his parentage, yet presuming vpon her fauours shewen him at the banquet, hee boldly, as loues champion, ventured to winne what Cupid had

had set as a prize: so that he began to frequent the Court, and became a Courtier, first byauing it amongst the Ladies, then by degrees creeping into fauour with the Ladies, where in time he found opportunity to parte with Eriphila, whom for fashion sake at the first hee found somewhat strange, but in short time became so tractable, that there was but one heart in two bodies; in so much, that not only Meribates and my sonne, but all the whole Court saw how Eriphila doted on Lucidor, whereat my sonne beganne to frowne; but Meribates would not see it, lest his diffidens should thinke him jealous, but smothered by the griefe in secretis, and thought either time, or the perswasion of her friends, or his continued affection would dissuade her from her follies. Well, Eriphila had not fauored Lucidor long, but there came to the Court another young Gentleman, called Perecius, who likewise was enamored of Eriphila, and she of him, that she proued more light of lone, then she was wittie; yet she excelled in wit all the Virgins of Taprobane.

To be briefe, so many faces, so many fancies, that shee became as variable in her loues, as the Polype in colours: which so perplexed the minde of Meribates, that falling into melancholy and grievous passions, he exclaimed against the inconstancie of women, who like Fortune stand upon a globe, and were winged with the feathers of Achlenesse: yet not willing to rage too far, till hee had talked with Eriphila, hee would not stay till opportunity would serue, but early in a morning stepped into her bed-chamber, where finding her betwene halfe sleeping and waking he saluted with great courtesie; being resaluted againe of Eriphila with the like priuate kind of familiaritie: after a few ordinary speeches, Meribates taking Eriphila by the hand, began to utter his mind in these words.

As I was in distress, I feele in my mind a perillous and most  
tall conflict between feare and loue, by the one, doubting  
in discouering my mind, to purchase your disfauour, by the  
other

other forced to bewray what I thinke, lest I perish, through my owne secrecie: hoping therefore you will take that comes from me, as from your second selfe; give me leaue to say that greenes me to repeat: How I doubt (Adame) of your constancie, what bowes there haue past betweene vs, what protestations, what promises, I referre to your stone conscience: What vnseemly fauours you haue shewed to Lucidor, what extreme fancie to Perecius, all Taprobane wonders at, with sorrow, that so witty a lady should proue so light: and I especially, whom the cause toucheth at the quicke, and paineth at the heart, feele moze miserable passions for your disioialtie, than I did receiue toyes in hope of your constancie. As Meribates was readie to haue prosecuted his parle, my daughter broke off his discourse in this manner.

And what of this, lord Meribates, may not a woman looke, but she must lone? are you iealous, forsooth, before the wedding? well, suppose I fauoured Lucidor and Perecius; Si natura hominum sit nouitatis auida, give women leaue to haue moze fancies than one, if not as we are louers, yet as we are women. Venus temple hath many entrances: Cupid hath moze arrowes than one in his quiver, and sundry strings to his bowe: women haue many looks, and so they may haue many lones.

What, lord Meribates, thinke you to haue a womans whole heart? no, vnlesse you can procure Venus to make her blind, or some other deitie deafe; for if either she see beauty or gold, or heare promises or passions, I thinke shee will keepe a coyn for a friend, and so will I. But Adam, the glorious frame of the world consists in vnitie, for wee see that in the firmament there is but one sunne: yea, quoth Eriphila, but there be many stars. The Iris or Rainbowe Adam (qd. he) hath but one qualite. Truth answered my daughter, but it hath many colours: but to come to a familiar example, replied Meribates: the heart hath but one string: yea but, quoth Eriphila, it hath many thoughts, and from these thoughts

thoughts spring passions, and from passions, not lone, but  
lones: therefore content you, sir, for if you loue me, you  
must haue riuals: and so turning her face, as in choller, to  
p other side of the bed, she bade him good morrow: he passing  
away out of the chamber in great melancholy, began as soon  
as he was alone to exclaime against the inconstancy of wo-  
men: saying, they were like marigolds, whose forme tur-  
neth round with the sunne: as waivering as wethersoks,  
that mooue with euery winde: as flitting as the Southwest  
Alands, that flote with euery gale: wittie, but in wiles: con-  
ceited, but in inconstancy: as brittle as glasse, hauing their  
harts fram'd of the Polipe Stones: their faces of the nature  
of the Adamants, and in quality like the Iacynth, which  
when it seemeth most hot, is then as cold as Iron: carrying  
frownes in their foreheads, and dimples in their cheekes:  
hauing their eyes framed of Iette, that dye euer beauty  
in a minute, and let them fall in a moment. Thus he ex-  
claimes against women: but such was his seruent affection  
towards Eriphila, that he would neither rage against her o-  
penly nor secretly, but smothered his passions in silence,  
which growing to the extreme, brought him into a feuer,  
wherein lingring awhile, he dyed: but in such sort, that all  
Taprobane said, it was for the inconstancy of Eriphila. When  
his Gentlemen and mariners mourned and sorrowed, in  
that their Dynace should bring him home dead, whom they  
brought forth alive: all joyntly praying, that the gods would  
be reuenged on Eriphila: who as she was then attending  
with me and her brother on the dead corpes to the shippe, sud-  
denly befoze all our sights was turned into this byrd (a  
Camelion.) whereupon the mariners reioyced, hoisting vp  
sailes, and thrusting into the maine, we scowred and re-  
turned home to the court.

Thus (Donne) thou hast heard the misfortune of my  
two daughters, the one for her pride, the other for her in-  
constancy: it is late, and the setting of the sunne calleth vs  
home with the Star, to our paye hie: therefore we will now



Greene's Metamorphosis.

to our cottage, and to morrow at thy breakfast I will satisfie thee with the hard fortune of Marpesia: with that I gaue the Countesse Alcida great thanks, and accompanied my courteous Daffelle to her cottage.



The third Discourse, of MARPESIA.

**N**o sooner was the day by, and Phcebus had marched out the greatest gates of heaven, lighting the world with the sparkling beautes, circled about his head, but old Alcida got by, and called me from my bedde: ashamed that old age should bee moze early then youth, I start by to waite vpon mine Daffelle, who being readie with her staffe in her hand, carried me forth into the fields hard adjoining to the sea side, where wee came to a tombe; on which lay the picture of a Gentleman very artificially carued: by him hung two tables without any simbole, embleme imprest; or other Hieroglyphicall character, onely there were written certaine verses to this effect.

The Graces in their glorie neuer gane  
A richer greater good to womankind:  
That more impall's their honors with the Palme,  
Of high renowne then matchlesse constancie.  
Beauty is vaine, accounted but a flowre,  
Whose painted hiew fades with the summer sunne:  
Wit oft hath wracke by selfe-conceit of pride,  
Riches is trash that fortune boasteth on.  
Constant in loue who tries a womans minde,  
Wealth, beaurie, wit, and all in her doth find.



In the other table were set downe these verses.

The fairest Iem oft blemisht with a cracke,  
Loseth his beauty and his vertue too :  
The fairest flowre nipt with the winters frost,  
In shew seemes worser then the basest weede.  
Vertues are oft farre ouerstain'd with faults,  
Were she as faire as Phoebe in her sphere,  
Or brighter then the paramour of Mars,  
Wiser then Pallas daughter vnto Ioue,  
Of greater maicstie then Iuno was,  
More chaste then Vesta goddess of the Maides,  
Of greater faith then faire Lucretia :  
Be she a blab, and rattles what she heares,  
Want to be secret giues farre greater staines,  
Then vertues glorie which in her remains.

After I had read ouer the verses ; Alcida sayd : (sonne)  
I perceiue thou dost muse at this tombe , set in so vncooth a  
place, hard by the steepe-downe cliffes of the Sea : especi-  
ally, furnished with Enigmatrall posies : yet hast thou  
not considered what after thou shalt finde, and therefore let  
vs sit downe vnder the shadowe of this Rose tree, which  
thou seest flourish in this barren place so faire and beauti-  
full, and I will digne thee out of these doubts, by discou-  
ring the fortune of my daughter Marpesia. I desirous to  
heare what the meaning of this monument seated so prospe-  
ctiue to Neptune, should be, sate mee downe very orderly  
vnder the Rose tree, and began to settle my selfe very at-  
tentine to heare what old Alcida would say, who began in  
this manner.

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The third Historie of M A R P E S I A  
of Taprobane.

**M**<sup>y</sup> two daughters being thus metamorphosed, and transfozmed so; their follies into strange shapes: I had left mee onely my yongest daughter Marpesia, in face little inferiour to her eldest sister Fiordespine, so; shee was passing beautifull: wise she was, as not second to Eriphila, but other speciall vertues she had, that made her famous thzough all Taprobane: and as the burnt childe dreads the fire, and other mens harmes learnes vs to beware: so my daughter Marpesia, by the misfoztune of Fiordespine, feared to be proud, and by the sinister chance of Eriphila, hated to be inconstant, insomuch, that fearing their natiuities to be fatall, and that hers being rightly calculated would proue as bad as the rest: she kept such a strict method of her life and manners, and so soz regarded all her actions with vertue, that she thought shee might despise both the fates and soztune.

Living thus warily, I and her brother concerned great content in her modestie and vertue: thinking, though the gods had made vs insoztunate by the mishappe of the other two: yet in the soztunate successe of Marpesias life, amends should bee made so; the other mishap. Perswaded thus, it soztuned that my sonne intertained into his seruice the son of a Gentleman, a bozdering neighbour by, a youth of greater beauty then birth, so; hee was of comely personage: of face louely, and though but meanly bzought bp, as nursed in his fathers house: yet his nature discovered that hee was hardie in his resolution touching courage: and courteous in disposition, as concerning his manners.

This

This youth, called Eurimachus, was so diligent and dutifull towards his lord, so affable to his fellows, and so gentle to every one, that hee was not onely well thought on by some, but generally liked and loued of all. Continuing in this method of life, hee so behaued himselfe, that in recompence of his seruice, my sonne promoted him not onely to higher office and some small pension, but admitted him into his secret and priuate familiarity. Liuing thus in great credit, it chanced that Venus seeing how my daughter Marpesia liued carelesse of her lones, and neuer sent so much as one sigh to Paphos for a sacrifice: shee called Cupid, complaining that shee was atheist to her deitie, and one opposed to her principles: whereupon the boy at his mothers becke, dyed out an inuenomed arrow, and leuelling at Marpesia, hit her vnder the right pappé, so nigh the heart, that giuing a grone she felt she was wounded, but how, or with what, she knew not; as one little skilfull in any amorous passions: yet shee felt thoughts vnfitting with her wonted humors, for noting the person of Eurimachus, which she found in property excellent, and admiring the qualities of his minde, co-ynited with many rare and precious vertues, which she perceiued to be extraordinary, she fell to conceiue a liking, which for the basenesse of his birth, shee passeth ouer as a toy: but the blinded wagge, that suffers not his wounds to be cured with easie salues, nor permitteeth any lenitiue plaisters to preuaile where hee pierceth with his arrowe, put oyle in the flame, and set fire to the flare, that she felt her fancy scarce warme, to grow to such a scalding heate, as euery veine of her heart sweet passions: feeling this new lord, called lone, to be so imperious, shee stooped a little, and entred into deeper consideration of Eurimachus perfection, and so deepe by degrees, that although shee coueted with the snail to haue her pace slow, yet at length shee waded so farre, that she was ouer her shoes: so that feeling her selfe passing into an vnknowne forme, shee fell into this doubtfull meditation.

What

What flame is this Marpesia, that over heateth thy hart?  
 What strange fire hath Venus sent from Cyprus, that scor-  
 cheth thee heere in Taprobane? hath Cupids holme such  
 strength; or his arrowes such flight, as being loosed in hea-  
 uen, hee can strike here vpon earth? a mighty goddess is  
 Venus, and great is Cupid that work effects of such strange  
 operation: make not a doubt (Marpesia) of that is palpable:  
 dreame not at that which thou seest with thine eyes, nor  
 muse not at that which thou feelst with thy heart: then  
 confesse and say thou art in loue, and loue in thee, so deeply  
 as Dumice-stones of reason will hardly raze out the cha-  
 racters. In loue: thou art young Marpesia, so is Cupid, a  
 very childe: a maid, so was Venus before shee lost her Vir-  
 ginitie, and yet for her lightnesse, shee was the goddess of  
 loue: but with whom art thou in loue: with Eurimach?  
 one of base birth, and small living; of no credite, a meane  
 Gentleman, and thy brothers seruant?

Consider Marpesia, that loue hath his reasons, and his  
 rules to settle fancy, and governe affections: honour ought  
 not to looke lower in dignitie, nor the thoughts of Ladies  
 gaze at worthlesse persons: Better is it for thee to perishe  
 in high desires, then in lowe disdain: oppose thy selfe to  
 Venus, vnlesse her presents be more precious: say loue is  
 folly, except her gifts be more rich: count rather to dye in  
 despising so meane a choice, then liue in liking so unlikely  
 a chance: what will thy mother, thy brother, thy friends;  
 nay all Taprobane say: but that thou art haire, carelesse,  
 and amorous: but note this Marpesia, loue is a league that  
 lasteth while life: thou art in this to feede thine eye, not  
 thine humour: to satisfie the desire of thy heart, not the  
 consideration of their thoughts: so in marrying, either a  
 perpetuall content, or a general mislike is like to fall to thy  
 selfe: what though he be poore, yet hee is of comely perso-  
 nage: though he be base of birth, yet he is wise: what hee  
 wanteth in gifts of fortune, hee hath in the minde: and the  
 defect of honours is supplied with vertues.

Venus

Greene's Metamorphosis.

Venus her selfe loued Adonis: Phœbe stooped from hea-  
uen to kisse a poore Shepheard, Anone loued Paris, as hee  
was a Swaine, not as the son of Priamus: loue is not al-  
waies companion to dignity, no; fancy euer lodged in kings  
Palaces. Then Marpesia, looke at Eurimachus, for hee is  
courteous, and loue him as he is vertuous; supply thou  
his want with thy wealth, and increase his credite with thy  
countenance: but how dare he motion loue, that is so low?  
or enterprise to attempt so great an assault? Neuer stand in  
doubt Marpesia, giue him thou but fauours, and loue and for-  
tune will make him bold.

Marpesia hauing thus meditated with her selfe, sought by  
all meanes possible, how to make him pring to her affecti-  
ons: she vsed in her salutations affable courtesie, and some-  
what more then ordinary: her looks were full of fauours,  
her glances many and milde; he vsed no exercise but she did  
commend, no; perfozmed any thing, which shee sayd not to  
be excellent. The young Eurimachus was not such a Ro-  
uice, but hee could espie a pad in the straw, and discerne a  
glowing coale, from colde cinders: hee noted her glances,  
her looks, her gestures, her wordes, examining every parti-  
cular action, in the depth of his thoughts, finding by the  
touchstone, that all tended vnto meere loue, or extreme dissi-  
mulation; for whatsoeuer she did was in extremes. Well,  
hope put him in comfort that shee was too vertuous to dis-  
semble; and feare, that shee was too honozable to loue so base  
a man: yet supposing the best, he tooke her passions for loue,  
& had a desire to return a liking with affection: but the con-  
sideration of his parentage, of his small possessions, of her  
honour, his wordes disfaueur, and the impossibility of his  
sute, was a cooling card to quench the hottest flame that  
Cupid could set on fire with his enchanted bzand: but Ve-  
nus had pittied the fondling, gaue him such precious com-  
forts to encourage her champion, that he resolved to at-  
tempt whatsoeuer his fortune were: thus in suspence he be-  
gan to debate with himselfe.

It hath bene an old saying Eurimachus, suckt from his mothers teate, that it is good to looke befoze thou leape, and to sound the Fozd befoze thou venter to wade too farre, fith time past cannot be recalled, nor actions perfozmed, reuoked, but repented; gaze not at starres, lest thou stamble at stones: looke not into the Lions denne, lest for thy presumption, thy skinne be pulled ouer thine eares. In lones, thoughts are to be measured by fortunes, not by desires, for Venus tables are to be gazed at with the eye, not to be reacht at with the hand. In lone, Eurimachus? why, it sitteth not with thy present estate: fancy is to attend on high lords, not on such as are seruile: it were meeter for thee to sweate at thy labours, then to sigh at thy passions: to please thy lord, then to dote on thy mistresse: busie then thy hands to free thy heart: bee not idle, and Venus charmes are to a deafe Adder.

*Cedit amor rebus, res age tuus eris.*

But Eurimachus, Phidias painteth lone young, and her garlands are made with the buds of Roses, not with withered flowres: youth holdeth the fire, and fancy puts in the oyle; but age carries the color cinders: now that heate of young peeres hath peaked, therefore if thou refuse to loue, when wilt thou finde time to fancie? wrinkles in the face, are spelles against Cupid; and Venus starteth backe from white haire: then now or else neuer, lone is a greater lord then thy master: for hee hath deity to counteruaile his dignitie. Thou tattlest Eurimachus of lone, but say who is the object: thy thoughts ayme at no lesse, nor no lower than Maipesia, sister to thy lord, a Princesse by birth, faire and beautifull, full of honourable and vertuous qualities, sought by men of high parentage; to say all in one word, the flowre of Taprobane: send sale, thinkest thou the hite and the Eagle will perch on one tree: the Lion and the Wolfe lye in one denne? Ladies of great worth, looke on such worthlesse peasants? No, thinke her disdain will bee greater then thy desire: and assure thee this, if thou presume,



Greeces Metamorphosis.

sure, shee will reuenge: why? is Cupid blind, and shoots he not one shaft at random? may he not as soone hit a Peacocke, as a Milk-maid? truth, but his arrowes are matches: he shoots not high with the one, and low with the other: hee ioynes not the Horse and the Elephant, the Lamb and the Tiger, the Fie and the Faulcon, no; sets not honoz in any seruile roome: yet Omphira the queene of the Indians loved a Barber: Angelica Medes, a mercenary souldier. Pea Venus her selfe chose a Blacke-smith.

Women oft resemble in their lones, the Apothecaries in their art: they choose the weed for their shop, when they leaue the fairest flowre in the garden: they oft respect the person, moze then the parentage, and the qualities of the man, moze then his honoz: seruing the eye with the shape, and the heart with the vertues, howsoeuer, they line discontent for want of riches: but build not Eurimachus, on these vncertaine instances, no; conclude on such premises, lest thy foundation faile, and thy Logike prooue not toozth a losse: what reason hast thou to perswade thee once to aime a thought at Marpesia, such as Venus if she heard thee ploaden, would attole for Aphorismes? if fauors be a signe of fancie, what glances haue I had that haue pearced deep: what looks, as discovering lone: what courteous speeches to my face: what praises behind my backe? Nay, what hath Marpesia done of late, but talke of Eurimachus, and honoz Eurimachus? what of this, young Souice, are not women Arch-practisers of flattery and dissimulation? lay they not their looks to intray, when they meane to keepe the fowle for tame fowles? haue they not desire in their faces, when they haue disdain in their hearts? did not Helena kisse Menelaus, when shee twinkled on Paris? did not Cresida tying Troylus by the hand, when her heart was in the tents of the Grecians? euery loke that women lend, is not lone: euery smile in their face is not a pike in their bosome: they present Roses, and heate men with Pettes: burne perfume, and yet bid them with the blacke: speak faire and affable,

Greenes Metamorphosis.

When, God wot, they meane nothing lesse : If then Eurimachus, thou knowest their wiles, feare to make experience of their wits ; rest thee as thou art : let Marpesia vse fauors, cast glances , praise and dispraise how she list, thinke all is wanton dissimulation, and so rest.

In this melancholy humour he left his lones, and went to his labours. Loue espying how in the day he withstood her face with diligence, she caused Morpheus to present him in his sleepes with the shape of his Distresse, which recognizing in the day, hee found that where fancie had pierced deepe, there no salue would serue to appease the Maladie: that from these light paines, he fell into extreme passions. As he could take no rest, he sought alwaies to be solitary, so to feed his thoughts with imaginations, that like Cephalus, he delighted to walke in the Groues, and there with Philomela to bewaile his lones.

Cupid pittying his plaints, sent opportunity to find her, who brought it so to passe, that as (on a day) he walked into a place (hard adioining to the parke, hauing his Lute in his hand, playing certaine melancholy dumpes, to mitigate his pinching humoz) Marpesia with one of her Gentlewomen, being abroad in the lanes, espied him thus solitary: stealing therefoze behind him to heare what humoz the man was in, heard him sing to his Lute this moznecfull madrigall.

Rest thee desire, gaze not at such a Starre;

Sweet fancy sleepe, loue take a nappe awhile:

My busie thoughts that reach and ronne so farre,

With pleasant dreames the length of time beguile.

Faire Venus coole my ouer-heated brest,

And let my fancy take her wonted rest.

Cupid abroad was lated in the night:

His wings were wet with ranging in the raine:

Harbour he sought, to me he tooke his flight,

To drie his plumes: I heard the boy complaine,

My

Greenes Metamorphosis.

My doore I oped to grant him his desire,  
And rose my lelse to make the Wagge a fire.

Looking more narrow by the fires flame,  
I spyed his quiuer hanging at his backe:  
I fear'd the child might my misfortune frame,  
I would haue gone for feare of further wracke;  
And what I drad (poore man) did me betide,  
For soorth he drew an arrow from his side.

He pierst the quicke that I began to start,  
The wound was sweete, but that it was too hie,  
And yet the pleasure had a pleasing smart:  
This done, he flyes away, his wings were drie,  
But left his atrow still within my brest,  
That now I greue, I welcom'd such a ghest.

He had no sooner ended his sonnet, but Marpesia perceiving by the contents, that it was meant of her, stepped to him, and djaue him thus abruptly from his passions.

If you griue Eurimachus, so; intertaining such a ghest, your sorrow is like the raine that came too late: to beleue, loue is such an vnruely tenant, that hauing his entrance vpon courtesie, he will not bee thrust out by force; you make me call to mind the counterfait of Paris, when he was Enones darling: so; Phidias drew him sitting vnder a Beech tree, playing on his pipe, and yet teares dropping from his eyes, as mixing his greatest melody with passions: but I see the comparison will not hold in you, so; though your instrument bee answerable to his, yet you want his lukewarms drops, which sheweth, though your musike bee as good, yet your thoughts are not so passionate: but leauing these ambages, say to me Eurimachus; what may she bee that is your Mistresse?

Eurimachus amazed at the sight of his Ladie, more then Priamus sonne was at the view of the three goddesses;

state still like the picture of Niobe turned into marble, as if some strange apoplexy had taken all his senses. Gaze on her face hee did: speake hee could not, in so much that Marpesia smiling at the extremity of his lones, wakened him out of this trance, thus:

What cheere man, hath loue so witched thy heart, as all thy senses haue left their powers: is thy tong tied, as thy heart is fettered, or hath the seare of your mistis cruelty driuen you into a cold palse? if this be the worst comfort your selfe, for women will be true: and if thee be too hard hearted, let me but know her, and you shall see how I will prattle on your behalfe; what say you to me, what makes you thus mute?

By this Eurimachus had gathered his senses together, that rising vp and doing reuerence to Marpesia, he thus replied: Madam, it is a principle in Philosophy, that *Sensibile sensus superpositum nulla sit sensatio*, the colour clapt to the eye, hindreth the sight, the flower put in the nostrill, hindreth the smell: and what of this Philosophicall Enigma, quoth Marpesia? I dare not madam, quoth Eurimachus, infer what I would; but to answer more plainly, Endimion waking, and feeling Phebe grace him with a kisse, was not more amazed, than I at your heavenly presence, fearing, if not Acleons fall, yet that I had committed the like fault: for at the first blush your excellency deane me into such a maze, that I dreamed not of the Lady Marpesia, but of some goddesse that had solaced in these woods, which supposition made me so mute.

You say still (quoth Marpesia) from any demand, playing like the Lapwing that cryeth farthest from her nest: I asked who it was that you loured so; as to honour her with such a sonet.

It was, Madam, to keepe accord to my lute, not to discover any passions, for all the amordelays Orpheus played on his harp, were not amorous, nor cury sonet that Arion warbled on his instrument, bowed vnto Venus. I am too young

Greenes Metamorphosis.

young to loue, for feare my youth be overbiddē; fancy being so heauy a burden, that Hercules (who could on his shoulder sustaine the heauens) groned to beare so twelghty a lode.

If then, Madame, I strue about my strength, especially in loue, I shall but with the Giants heape Pelcon vpon Ossā, passions vpon passions, so long till I be stricken to death with loues thundering bolt: therefore, Madame, I dare not loue.

Marpesia, who determined to sound the depth of his thoughts, tooke him before hee fell to the ground, and made this reply: Trust mee Eurimachus, your looks, your actions, your sighes and gesture, argues no lesse than a lover: therefore seeing we are alone, none but we thre, He haue you once in thyft, and therefore I coniuere you by your Mistresse fauour and beautie, to tell me whether you be in loue or no.

You straine me so hard, Madam, (quoth Eurimachus) that I am in loue, and loue so farre in mee, as neither time nor fortune can raze out: the name of my mistresse, Madam, pardon, for in naming her I discouer mine owne presumption, hauing aymed so by the means of aspiring loue, as her excellency crosseth all my thoughts with disdain: For Madam, giue me leaue to say (making no compare) that the Graces at her birth did agree to make her absolute: I hauing soared so high, as the sunne hath halfe melted my feathers, I feare with Icarus to fall into the Ocean of endlesse miseries; for be her disdain neuer so great, yet my desire will neuer be lesse, soyne the I should looke so hie; affection will not bate an ounce of his maine: but seeing the dice be in his hands, will throw at all.

But Madam, so farre I am out of conceit to haue but one fauour at her hands, as I passe euery day and houre in as now perplered estate, as the ghosts greened by the infernall furies: and with this the water stood in his eyes, which Marpesia not able to bwoke, began to saue thus.

I will

Greenes Metamorphosis.

I will not Eurimachus, be inquisitive of your Mistresse name, sith you haue perceiued a reason to conceale it, but for your loues that are lodged so hie, feare not man; the Blacksmith dared to conet faire Venus; the little Sparrow pecketh sometimes wheat, the Eagle taketh stand; and the little Mouse feedeth, where the Elephant hath eaten hay: loue as sone stoopeth to visite a poore cottage, as a Palace: to dare, I tell thee Eurimachus, in loue, is the first pynckle: and Helena told Paris:

*Nemo succenset amanti.*

Thou must then to Paphos, and not be bashfulnesse in Venus temple: sacrifices serue at her altars, as a thing unfit for louers; and be she as high of degree as any in Taprobane, court her Eurimachus, and if thou misse, it is but the hap that louers haue. As shee should haue prosecuted her talke, her brother who was stalking to kill a Deere, came by, and spying them at so priuate and familiar chat, frowned, commanding Eurimachus (as halfe in anger) to get him home: hee leauing his sport, accompanied my daughter to the court.

These louers thus parted, were not long ere they met, where Eurimachus following the pcepts of Marpesia, began very boldly to giue the assault, she very faintly, for fashion sake, making a womans resistance, but the batterrie was so freshly renewed, that Marpesia yeelved, and there they plighted a constant promise of their loues: bowing such faith and loyaltie as the troth of two louers hearts might afford.

In this happie content they liued a long while, till Marpesia blabbing the contract out to a gentleman of the court, it came to her brothers and her mothers eare, who taking the matter grieuously, had her strictly in examination. Marpesia confessed her loues, and maintained them: on the contrary



trary side, they perswaded with promises, and threatened with bitter speeches: but in vaine, for Marpesia was resolved and tolde for a flat conclusion, Eurimachus was the man, and none but he. Whereupon, my sonne seeing no means could ppenaile to remoue her affection, he thought by taking away the cause, to raze out the effects: and therefore he sent for Eurimachus, whom after he had nipped by with bitter taunts, he banished from the Court.

This being grienous to the two lovers, yet the assurance of each others constancie, and the hope in time to haue the Prince reconciled, mitigated some part of their martyrdome: and Marpesia, to shew to the world shee was not fleeing, whatsoeuer her friends said, discovered the grief she conceiued by his absence openly, for she went apparelled in mourning attire. Well, Eurimachus thus banished, went home to his father, who for feare of the prince, durst not entertaine him, which unkindnesse had doubled his grieffe, that he fell almost frantike, and began to leaue the company of men as a flat Timonist: in which humoz, meeting with the Gentleman that betwaid their loues, he fought with him and slew him, and buried him so secretly as the care of his owne life could deuise.

Well, Cleander was mist, but heare of him they could not; Postes were sent out, messengers through all Taprobane, but no newes, so that diuerse did descant diuersly of his departure; some said he was vpon secret displeasure betweene him and the Prince, passed out of the land: others, that he was slaine by theeues: some that hee was deuoured by wild beasts. Thus debating of his absence, he was generally lamented of all the court.

But (leauing the supposition of his death) againe to Marpesia, who taking the exile of Eurimachus to her heart, began to growe into great and extreme passions, and for grieffe of the minde, to bodily disease, that she fell into a Quartaine, which so tormented her, as the Physicians said, ther was no hope of life, no; no art to cure her disease

Greeces Metamorphosis.

vnlesse her minde were at quiet : whereupon her brother  
fearing his sisters life, recalled home Eurimachus, admit-  
ted him into great fauour, and gauefre grant of his good-  
will to their marriage.

Vpon this, Marpesia growng into a content, in shoꝛt  
time amended. After shee had recovered her health, shee  
dayly vsed the company of Eurimachus very pꝛinately and  
familiarily, but she found him not the man he was befoꝛe :  
foꝛ befoꝛe he was exiled, no man moꝛe pleasant noꝛ moꝛe  
merrily conceited ; now none moꝛe melancholly noꝛ ful-  
ler of dumps, vttering farre fetcht sighes, and vnertaine  
answers, so that it discovered a minde greatly perpleꝛed.  
Marpesia noting this, being on a day all alone with Euri-  
machus in his chamber, shee sought with faire intreaties  
and sweete dalliance, to wyng out the cause of his soꝛ-  
rowes, protestking, if shee could, euen with the hazard of  
her life redresse it : if not, to participate in griefe some  
part of his distresse.

Eurimachus, that loued her moꝛe than his life, although  
hee knew womens tongues were like the leaues of the  
Aspe tree, yet thinking her to bee wise, after a multitude  
of moꝛtall sighes, hee discoursed vnto her, how hee had  
slaine Cleander, and that the remembrance of his death  
bred this hozꝛoꝛ in his conscience.

Marpesia hearing this, made light of the matter, to com-  
foꝛt Eurimachus, pꝛomising and protestking to keepe it as  
secret as hitherto she had been constant. But shee no soꝛ-  
ner was parted from her best beloned, but shee was with  
childe of this late and dangerous netwes, laboring with  
great paines till shee might vtter it to her Gossips : where  
we may note, sonne ( I speake againe my selfe ) that the  
closets of womens thoughts are euer open, that the depth  
of their heart hath a string that stretcheth to the tongues  
end, that with Semele they conceiue and bying foꝛth oft  
befoꝛe their time : which Marpesia tried true, foꝛ sitting  
one day solitarie with a Ladie in the court, called Celia,  
shee

shee fetcht many pinching sighes, which Celia marking, desired her to tel her the cause of that late conceined grief, as to a friend, in whose secretesse she might repose her life. Marpesia made it somewhat coy and charie a great while, insomuch that Celia began to long; and therefore vied her extremely. Marpesia could keep no longer, and therefore vsing this preamble, began to play the blabbe.

If I did not, Madam Celia, take you for my second selfe, and thinke you to bee wise and secret, I would not reueale a matter of so great importance, which toucheth me as much as my life to conceale: Women, you know, hauing any thing in their stomake, long while they haue discourst it to some friend: taking you therefore for my chiefest, and hoping all shal be troden vnder foote, know Madam, that Eurimachus hath slaine Cleander, and that is the cause that makes him thus melancholy. Mary, God forbid (quoth Celia.) It is true Madam, quoth Marpesia, and therefore let whatsoeuer I haue said be buried in this place. With that I came into place, and they broke off their talke.

Celia longing to be out of the chamber, that shee might participate this newes to her Cousins, as sone as opportunity gaue her leaue, went abroad, & meeting by chance another Gentlewoman of the Court, calling her aside, tolde her, if she would be secret, and sweare not to reueale it to any one, she would tell her strange newes: the other promising, with great protestation, to bee as close as a woman could bee, Celia told her, how Eurimachus was the man that slew Cleander, and that her authour was Marpesia.

They were no sooner parted, but this newes was told to another, that before night it was through the whole court, that Eurimachus had slaine Cleander: whereupon, the Prince could doe no lesse (though very loth for his sisters sake) but cause him to be apprehended and cast into prison, then assembling his Lords and Commons, prodi-

red Eurimachus, who after strict examination was found guilty, the greatest witnes against him being the confession of Marpesia. The verdict given by, the princes could not but giue iudgement, which was, that within one moneth in the place where he kild Cleander, he should be beheaded. Sentence giuen, Eurimachus took his misfortune with patience. Helwes comming to Marpesia of this tragicall euent, she fell downe in a fount, and grew into bitter passions, but in vaine.

My sonne, to shew how he loved Eurimachus, caused a Caruer to cut out this sumptuous tombe in this forme, wherein after his death, hee resolved to burie him, so to grace him with extraordinary honoz. All things prouided, and the day of his death being come, Eurimachus clad all in blacke veluet, came forth mourning in his appaeril, but merrie in his countenance, as one that sozrewed soz the fault, but was not daunted with death. After him followed my Sonne, the Carles, Lords, and Barons of the land, all in black; and I and my daughter Marpesia, and the ladies of the court, couered with sable hails, attending on this condemned Eurimachus: being come to the place, the deathf-man hauing laid the blocke, and holding the axe in his hand, Eurimachus befoze his death vttered these woordes.

Lords of Taprobane, here I kild Cleander, & here must I offer my blond as amends to the soule of the dead Gentleman, which I repent with moze sozrow, then I performed the deed with furie: The cause of his death, and my misfortune is all one: he slaine soz bewraying my lones, I executed soz discovering his death: but infortunate I, to bewray so priuate a matter to the secrecy of a woman, whose hearts are full of holes, apt to receiue, but not to retaine: whose tongues are trumpets that let open to the world what they know: Foolish is hee that commits his life into their lappes, or tyes his thoughts in their beauties: such is the nature of these fondlings that they cannot

not cover their owne scapes, nor straine a baile over their  
greatest faults: their hearts are so great, their thoughts  
so many, their wits so sickle, and their tongues so slippe-  
ry: the heart and the tongue are Relatiues, and if time  
serues they cannot paint out their passions in talke, yet  
they will discover them with their lookes: so that if they  
be not blabbes in their tongues, they will be tattlers with  
eyes: the gods haue greatly reuenged this fault in men,  
letting it ouer-slip in women, because it is so common &  
amongst that sex. Mercurie, for his babbling turned Ba-  
rus to an Inder or touchstone, whose nature is to bewray  
any metal it toucheth: and Tantalus for his little seruete  
in bewraying that Proserpina ate a graine of the Pome-  
granate, is placed in hell, by to the chin in water, with  
continuall thirst, and hath apples hang ouer his head,  
with extreme hunger, whereof the Poet saith:

*Quærit aquas in aquis, & poma fugatia captat  
Tantalus: hoc illi garrula lingua dedit.*

But why doe I delay death with these frivolous dis-  
courses of women: suffice they are blabs? and so turning  
to the death-man, laying his necke on the blocke, his head  
was smitten off. The execution done, his death was la-  
mented, and his body solemnly intombed as thou seest, all  
exclaiming against my daughter Marpesias little Treachery,  
who in penance of her fault, bled once a day to visite the  
tomb, and here to her loues soule, sacrifice many sighes  
and teares: at length Venus taking pittie of her plaints,  
thinking to ease her of her sorrow, and to inflict a gentle  
and meek reuenge, turned her into this Rose tree.

As Alcida had bittered these words, there was a ship  
within kenne, whose streamers hanging out, I iudged  
by their colours they were of Alexandria, whereupon I  
waaned them to leeward: the Mariners (more than ordina-  
ry courteous) struck sailes, & sent their cockboates a shore:

the Shippers were no sooner a land, but I knew them to be of Alexandria, and so; all my misfortunes, basely attired as I was, the poore knaves called me to remembrance, and their reverence done; asked if I would to Alexandria: I told them it was mine intent, whereupon, taking leaue of my old Daffesse, the Countesse Alcida, with many thanks so; my courteous entertainment, the verie loth to leaue me, went with the Partners towards the boate.

The poore Lady, seeing her self alone, fell to her wonted teares, which the gods taking pittie on, befoze my face turned to a fountaine; I wondering at their deities, entred the boate, and went to the ship, whers welcomed and revered of the Master, and the rest, hoisting vp all our sayles, we made so; ALEXANDRIA.

(:)



FINIS.

